

# **Alabama School of Fine Arts**

## **dance**

### **The Dance Department at ASFA**

The ASFA Dance Department curriculum is grounded in the philosophy of the Revolutionary Principles of Movement. It focuses on research-based kinesiology while emphasizing the inherent joy of movement and self-expression in dance. Multiple dance forms, repertoire and somatic practice round out the class offerings and a registered physical therapist and nutritionist are on staff. Juniors and seniors take a professional practicum which includes dance history, composition, a broad survey of the field investigating career and higher education opportunities and essential elements of production. Senior year culminates in a unique student-created and choreographed performance. Graduates have earned placement with noted dance companies and acceptances and scholarships from leading institutions of higher learning both in Alabama and throughout the United States.

### **Alabama School of Fine Arts Mission Statement**

The mission of the Alabama School of Fine Arts, a diverse community of explorers, is to nurture impassioned students by guiding and inspiring them to discover and fulfill their individual creative abilities in an atmosphere distinguished by the fusion of fact and feeling, risk and reward, art and science, school and society.

### **Accommodation Statement**

ASFA was created by the State to provide a more challenging education for impassioned, talented students in Creative Writing, Dance, Math & Science, Music, Theatre Arts and Visual Arts. Consistent with its mission, only those students will be admitted to ASFA and allowed to remain who are able to meet the demands of a rigorous curriculum. Applicants with existing Individualized Education Plans (IEP) are obliged to inform ASFA administration during the application period and to provide a copy or authorization for release of the applicant's most recent IEP and any related records deemed necessary by ASFA. If a qualifying disabling condition is substantiated before or after enrollment, a committee appointed by the Executive Director will determine if the school can reasonably accommodate the student's needs or if these needs will be better accommodated in a different educational environment.

### **Equal Opportunity Statement**

It is the policy of the Alabama School of Fine Arts not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, creed, national origin or any other proscribed category, in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by local, state, and federal policies and laws. Inquiries or complaints regarding compliance with applicable laws or this policy may be directed to Dr. Tim Mitchell, President, Alabama School of Fine Arts, 1800 Rev Abraham Woods, Jr. Blvd., Birmingham, AL 35203, or by calling him at (205) 252-9241.

# Alabama School of Fine Arts dance

## About the Alabama School of Fine Arts

The Alabama School of Fine Arts (ASFA) operates as a public secondary school with the entire state as its district. Situated in Birmingham, the population center of Alabama, ASFA offers residential facilities for students who are beyond commuting distance. The ASFA campus is in downtown Birmingham and is a major part of the Cultural District.

- Partially residential, publicly funded secondary school grades 7-12
- Semester system, modified block schedule (90 minute block periods only in specialty areas)
- Extended school day from 8:00 am until 4:40 pm with 6 periods running 45 minutes each and two specialty periods running 90 minutes each
- Extended school day and departmental activities evenings and weekends preclude sports and other extracurricular activities
- College preparatory curriculum in core academics
- Specialty courses (those listed in departmental profiles) are open only to students within those departments
- Member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling; The College Board; The International Network of Performing and Visual Arts Schools; The Alabama Association of School Boards; The National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics Science and Technology, and the Coalition of Essential Schools
- Enrollment for 2021-2022 school year is 330
- **ACT COMPOSITE**

		ASFA	State	Natl.
Middle 50%.....	22—32	Mean: 27	18.9	20.7
- **SAT I REASONING**

	Middle 50%	Mean:	ASFA	State	Natl.
Reading & Writing	620-640		665	591	533
Math	570-730		655	568	528
Composite	1190-1410		1320	1159	1060
- 2021 ASFA Seniors (65) awarded over \$11.8 million in college scholarships and grants
- 12 National YoungArts Foundation Finalists in Creative Writing, Music, Visual Arts
- Two Gold Medals in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in Visual Arts and Creative Writing
- 4 National Merit Scholars
- 6 National Achievement Scholars
- 5 Scholastic Art & Writing Gold Medal Winners
- 2 Intel International Science & Engineering Finalists
- 4 representing Alabama in the National Science Bowl
- 3 on the American Computer Science League All-Star International Team
- Faculty: full time 73; part-time and adjunct 26
- Seven teachers certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

# dance information

## Frequently Asked Questions

### When is the best time to apply to ASFA?

- Our applications are available in early November and the deadline for the March audition is **January 28, 2022.**

### Can I apply to more than one department?

- No. ASFA is looking for students who are passionate and serious about a particular specialty program.

### What grades do you have to have to get into ASFA?

- You must have a 70 average in core classes of the current semester you are applying in. Also, your scores on national testing and teacher recommendations are of importance in the application process.

### What is the cost?

- We are a public school. There is **no tuition** for Alabama residents. There is a \$200 Dance fee that is due once a year. Each individual student is responsible for leotards, tights (according to dress code), make-up, and dance shoes.
- **How do classes work each day?**  
Students have eight class periods and one lunch period each day. Six class academics of about 45 minutes. Students meet the last three to four hours of the day in their Dance classes.

### What time are dance students dismissed each day?

- Dance classes conclude either at 4:40 or 5:30 pm Monday through Friday. Rehearsals are dismissed at 7:15 pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Some Saturday rehearsals are required. During the week of production, students may be in rehearsals every day as late as 9:00 pm. This occurs about three weeks out of the year.

### What classes are offered in the Dance Department?

- Ballet, pointe, partnering, variations, modern technique, dance practicum, dance history, and composition. Seniors must also complete a Senior Composition Project.

### How are students graded in the Dance Department?

Students are graded on their progress, consistent application of corrections, efficient and positive use of class time, attentiveness and effort, promptness and preparedness for class and rehearsal. Students must maintain an 80 or above average in their specialty.

### Do ASFA students pay for their costumes?

- No.

### How many students are accepted each year?

- The number of students varies each year according to space available in the department and the overall school enrollment.

### Does the Alabama School of Fine Arts offer bus service?

- Unfortunately, no. Our students are from so many different locales that it would be impossible to run a bus service. We do have car pool lists available.

### When are auditions held?

- Auditions will be held March 5, 2022. You will be notified by mail whether you are invited to the on-site audition.

### How soon after the audition will I know if I have been accepted?

- Letters will be mailed on March 18, 2022.

### What is the Student Shadow Program at ASFA?

- It offers a prospective student an opportunity to experience a typical day at ASFA. **Go to [www.asfa.k12.al.us](http://www.asfa.k12.al.us), click on *Apply to ASFA*, click on *Visit ASFA*, click on *ASFA Shadow Form*.**

# dance

## application procedure

To apply to the Dance Department at ASFA, you must be a rising 7th—10th grader.

**Application Deadline:** ASFA must receive all of the following documents for the March audition by January 28, 2022.

**Student Application:** complete and submit online to ASFA **as soon as possible**. We must receive the application first so all other forms will be attached.

**Application Fee:** \$50.00 non-refundable application fee must be paid when the application is submitted **on or before the deadline**.

**Teacher Recommendation Forms & Request for Grades:** Go to the ASFA Application Page of the application and under #III you will see in blue **Click this link to begin the schoolrecs process**. Forms must be electronically signed by the parent and student before forms are submitted to the teachers to complete.

- You will need email addresses for your current **English teacher, academic teacher of choice and dance teacher**. Recommendations must be received **on or before the deadline**.
- **Counselor/Registrar Request for Grades Form:** Form is located under schoolrecs on the application. Form must be signed by the parent and student before the form is submitted to the Registrar or Guidance Counselor at your school to complete. This form and all of the requested information must be completed and returned to ASFA **on or before the deadline**.

**Photos/Performance/Study Experience/Résumé:** Complete form online. You may also mail your resume along with the two required photos (under Application and Video Guidelines). This form needs to be submitted **on or before the deadline**.

**Video:** Follow directions below in “Making the Video” and submit **on or before the deadline**.

**Only completed applications received by the deadline** will be reviewed. When the audition committee reaches a decision, we will notify you.

**Any information submitted by mail should be sent to:**

Melanie Lee  
Alabama School of Fine Arts  
1800 Rev Abraham Woods, Jr. Blvd.  
Birmingham, AL 35203

**For questions about your application contact**

Melanie Lee  
205.252-9241 ext 2249  
205.458-0342 (fax number)  
e-mail preferred: [mlee@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:mlee@asfa.k12.al.us)

**For questions about specific audition requirements contact**

Wes Chapman  
Chair, Dance Department  
e-mail: [wchapman@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:wchapman@asfa.k12.al.us)

Good luck as you complete your application!

# dance

## application video guidelines

Dance students must submit a dance video, following the application video guidelines, of their work in the studio and a 5 x 7 photo taken in first arabesque and another photo in tendu à la seconde. To be considered as an applicant to the ASFA's Dance Department. Please a student must submit a dance video following the application video guidelines. Please print your name and grade on the back of the photos. Application forms, video and photographs must be submitted on or before **before January 28, 2022.**

### Making the Video

Demonstrate each of the following movements below. You may use recorded barre accompaniment. Demonstration may be to one side only. Ask your ballet teacher to help by creating level and age appropriate work. If you have no one knowledgeable to assist you, contact Melanie Lee ([mlee@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:mlee@asfa.k12.al.us)) or Wes Chapman ([wchapman@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:wchapman@asfa.k12.al.us)).

When you e-mail the recording (in the Subject line) be sure to include your name, the grade level, and the department. Prior to the recorded demonstration and in front of the camera, state your name, age, rising academic grade level and a brief narrative as to why you wish to enter the ASFA Dance Department. Place the camera in a stationary position for barre work so that you are facing sideways in relationship to the camera. For center work, the camera should be positioned down stage, so you present to the camera as if performing for an audience.

Wear appropriate dance attire when you make the video. Girls should wear flesh tone tights, ballet slippers to match, and a black leotard. Hair must be securely fastened and out of the face. Boys should wear a dance belt, black tights, white tee shirt or leotard, white socks and black ballet slippers.

- **Ballet Barre**  
battements tendus and dégagés en croix from fifth position  
rond de jambe en dedans and en dehors à terre and en l'air  
battements frappés  
fondu and développé en croix with balances in retiré and arabesque positions  
grand battement en croix
- **Center**  
adage with développé en croix and demonstration of first arabesque  
battements tendus with pirouettes  
ballet combination across the floor with demonstration of en dedans and en dehors pirouettes  
changements and échappés sautés  
petit allegro with petits jetés and assemblés  
grand jeté and tour jeté entrelacé

Girls may either complete the entire audition on pointe or provide a short demonstration of pointe ability after the required center work. Boys may also demonstrate areas of male technique by including additional allegro work, including petit batterie, tour en l'air and grand allegro.

- **Improvisation**  
Document and share a 2 minute dance Improvisation in the dance form of your choice.

## How to Upload and Share Videos in Google Drive


### Upload files

There are two ways to upload files to Google Drive:

- **Drag-and-drop files.** If you're using the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox, you can simply drag-and-drop files directly from your computer into Google Drive. You can even drag-and-drop files directly into folders or sub-folders.
- **Upload files using Google Drive.** Follow the steps below to select files to upload to Google Drive.


### **New Google Drive**

Open [drive.google.com](https://drive.google.com).

1. Click the  **NEW** button and select **Upload Files...** from the drop-down menu.
2. Select the file you'd like to upload. To select multiple files, press **Shift** or **Ctrl(PC)/Command(Mac)** and click all the files to upload.
3. You'll see a box that shows the progress of your file upload. Click on the file name to open the file or close the box by clicking the **X** in the upper right corner.

### **Classic Google Drive**



Open [drive.google.com](https://drive.google.com).

1. Click the upload  button and select **Files...** from the drop-down menu.
2. Select the file you'd like to upload. To select multiple files, press **Shift** or **Ctrl(PC)/Command(Mac)** and click all the files to upload.
3. You'll see a box that shows the progress of your file upload. Click on the file name to open the file or close the box by clicking the **X** in the upper right corner.

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### Share a file

You can share a file or folder in Google Drive or in the Docs, Sheets, and Slides home screens.

1. Open Drive, or a file or folder you want to share.
2. Open the sharing box:
  - **While you have a file open:** Click **Share** in the top-right corner.
  - **While you have a folder open:** Click the  **Share** button in the top-right.
  - **From your file list in Drive:** Select the name of a file or folder and click the **Share** button  at the top.
3. Under "People" in the sharing box, type the email addresses of the people you want to share with. Please include the following email addresses:

For **DANCE** share with:

- [mlee@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:mlee@asfa.k12.al.us)
  - [wchapman@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:wchapman@asfa.k12.al.us)
  - [sblack@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:sblack@asfa.k12.al.us)
  - [mcole@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:mcole@asfa.k12.al.us)
  - [gbarnes@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:gbarnes@asfa.k12.al.us)
4. For the **type of access** you want to give these users choose **CAN VIEW** by clicking the dropdown arrow to the right of that text box:  
**Can view:** Users can see the file or folder but can't edit or comment on it
  5. Click **Done**. The users will receive an email letting them know you've shared the file or folder with them.

The Application Committee will review your materials when they are received and notify you of your application status. If selected to audition for the Dance Department, you will be sent a letter inviting you to the ASFA Dance auditions.

If you have questions regarding these instructions, please contact Wes Chapman, Margi Cole, Shawn Black or Germaul Barnes 205-252-9241.

# dance

## audition

Upon approval of your application materials and video you will receive an invitation to attend the ASFA Dance Audition on March 5, 2022. The dance audition will include both ballet and modern. It is designed to determine the applicant's current level of dance training and understanding of movement vocabulary, and to evaluate the applicant's musicality and physicality as pertains to the requirements of an intensive dance program. In addition, an interview with the applicant, will be conducted by the Dance Faculty as part of the audition process.

Dance applicants should wear appropriate dance attire.

Females: flesh-colored tights, black leotard, ballet shoes and pointe shoes, if applicable, and no jewelry. Hair should be securely fastened and out of the face.

Males: black tights, dance belt, white t-shirt and black ballet shoes. No jewelry allowed.

### DANCE AUDITION GUIDELINES

Barre work may include but is not limited to: battement tendu, battement dégagé, rond de jambe à terre and en l'air, battement frappé, développé, grand battement.

Centre exercises may include but are not limited to: adage with demonstration of épaulement and port de bras, pirouettes en dehors and en dedans, balancé and pas de bourrée combinations, piqué turns, chaînées, petit allegro including changement de pieds, échappés sautés, glissades, temps levés, jeté, assemblés, sissonnes, brisés, cabrioles, grand allegro combinations including grands jeté, grands jetés en tournant, sauts de basque, and ointe work.

The modern technique component of the audition may include center floor modern warm-up exercises, modern combinations moving across the floor and basic modern jumps.

**Please note:** The criteria for evaluation is dependent on the age of the applicant.

#### **For questions about your application contact**

Melanie Lee  
205.252-9241  
205.458-0342 (fax number)  
Email: [mlee@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:mlee@asfa.k12.al.us)

#### **For questions about specific audition requirements contact**

Wes Chapman  
Chair, Dance Department  
Email: [wchapman@asfa.k12.al.us](mailto:wchapman@asfa.k12.al.us)