

What is the ASMSA Online Academy?

The ASMSA Online Academy is a full-time online program created by the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts (ASMSA). It offers academically motivated Arkansas high school students access to rigorous, college-preparatory coursework in a virtual format. While ASMSA's residential program in Hot Springs remains a cornerstone of the school's identity, the Online Academy expands access to students across the state who may not be able to relocate but still seek a transformative educational experience.

Who is eligible for the program?

The Online Academy is designed for high school juniors and seniors in Arkansas, though younger students who demonstrate academic readiness may also apply. Students must have completed foundational math courses, including Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry, before enrolling. Admission is open to all students who are prepared for the academic challenges of advanced coursework.

What will my student learn?

The Online Academy provides a robust curriculum focused on Advanced Placement (AP) courses. The program emphasizes the humanities and critical thinking while meeting state graduation requirements. Students will complete a thoughtfully curated sequence of AP courses over two years, with additional opportunities to explore global languages and other requirements through supplemental providers. The curriculum fosters intellectual growth, leadership, and preparation for college and beyond. Students will earn the AP Capstone Diploma and are positioned for AP Scholar designation.

How does the program support students?

ASMSA has always prioritized support beyond the classroom, and the Online Academy is no exception. Students will benefit from personalized academic coaching, one-on-one college advising, and access to mental health resources. Structured mentoring sessions and community-building activities help foster connections among students and with their instructors. The program also offers opportunities for online students to engage with the broader ASMSA community through on-campus events and other initiatives.

How much does the program cost?

The annual tuition for the Online Academy is \$5,000 (pending final authorization by the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees in May). Families can ensure there is no net cost for this opportunity through the newly-expanded Educational Freedom Accounts (EFA) under the Arkansas LEARNS Act. This approach ensures families have access to top-tier coursework while still preserving additional EFA funds to cover technology, enrichment programs, or other approved needs.

What is the application process?

Applications will open on April 1. The application process is straightforward and designed to ensure students and their families understand the program's rigor and expectations. Applicants must provide their academic records, respond to short essay prompts about their goals and interests, and submit a statement of commitment from a parent or guardian. Once the application is complete, families will participate in a virtual or in-person onboarding session with the Office of Admissions to learn more and determine if the program is the right fit. Applications are open until June 1, with late applications considered on a case-by-case basis.

Why is ASMSA expanding into online education?

ASMSA has a long history of innovation in distance learning, having offered virtual courses for more than two decades. The Online Academy builds on that foundation to address the needs of students who may not have access to advanced coursework in their local schools or be ready to live away from home. It is also designed for students who thrive in a flexible learning environment or need alternatives due to family or work obligations. The program reflects ASMSA's commitment to closing opportunity gaps and ensuring every motivated student in Arkansas has access to the state's premier public high school.

What makes the ASMSA Online Academy different?

The ASMSA Online Academy does not attempt to replicate every aspect of the nationally-recognized residential experience. Instead, it focuses on the unique advantages of a virtual format, blending asynchronous learning with live sessions that encourage real-time engagement. The program's emphasis on humanities and critical thinking complements the residential school's STEM-heavy focus, offering a well-rounded academic experience tailored to the needs of online learners. Students who complete the program will graduate with an ASMSA diploma and be honored in a special ceremony.

How can I learn more?

For families interested in how online learning can help students thrive, the ASMSA Online Academy offers an exciting new pathway. Contact Jason Hudnell, director of the Office of Admissions, at admissions@asmsa.org or call/text (501) 622-5235 to explore this opportunity and take the first step toward a brighter academic future.



ARKANSAS SCHOOL
FOR MATH, SCIENCES, + THE ARTS

WEB: ASMSA.ORG SOCIAL: [ARMATHSCIARTS](https://www.instagram.com/ARMATHSCIARTS) #ASMSA