

2025-2026

Visual & Performing Arts

Course Offerings

INTRODUCTION TO STUDIO ART

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

Students experiment with a variety of media as they foster an appreciation and understanding of the fundamentals of visual art. The elements of art are used in projects as students start to organize their compositions employing the principles of design. The development of craftsmanship and application of artistic techniques are emphasized as students use visual art as a form of communication. Students learn about various historical and cultural artworks. They will openly discuss, analyze, and evaluate artwork. Students will begin to trust their ideas, take risks in their own artwork, and gain confidence in their ideas and visual expression.

PAINTING AND DRAWING

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

Prerequisite: Introduction to Studio Art or teacher permission.

This is a studio experience that warrants personal initiative, perseverance, and solid work ethic. Through structured studio practices, students will begin to understand the intricacies of various drawing media (graphite, charcoal, pastel) and painting media (watercolor, acrylic, and oil), develop an understanding of compositional unity, and advance their technical skills. Building upon the idea of art as a problem-solving discipline, students develop increasingly sophisticated critical thinking skills as they examine their surroundings, analyze artwork more insightfully, and develop their artistic voice. Craftsmanship, communication, and experimentation are stressed. Increasing emphasis will be placed on conceptual development and the content of their work.

PRINTMAKING

TRIMESTER 1

Prerequisite: Introduction to Studio Art or teacher permission.

This is a studio experience that warrants personal initiative, perseverance, and solid work ethic. Through structured studio practices, students will begin to understand the intricacies of various printmaking techniques (relief, linoleum, monotype, cyanotype, silkscreen), develop an understanding of compositional unity, and advance their technical skills. Building upon the idea of art as a problem-solving discipline, students develop increasingly sophisticated critical thinking skills as they examine their surroundings, analyze artwork more insightfully, and develop their artistic voice. Craftsmanship, communication, and experimentation are stressed. Increasing emphasis will be placed on conceptual development and the content of their work.



CERAMICS

TRIMESTER 3

Prerequisite: Introduction to Studio Art or teacher permission.

This is a studio experience that warrants personal initiative, perseverance, and solid work ethic. Through structured studio practices (both hand building and on the potter's wheel), students will begin to understand the intricacies of the medium, develop an understanding of compositional unity, and advance their technical skills. Building upon the idea of art as a problem-solving discipline, students develop increasingly sophisticated critical thinking skills as they examine their surroundings, analyze artwork more insightfully, and develop their artistic voice. Craftsmanship, communication, and experimentation are stressed. Increasing emphasis will be placed on conceptual development and the content of their work.

ADVANCED 2D STUDIO ART

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

Prerequisite: Intermediate Studio course

Advanced 2D Studio Art is for highly motivated students who are seriously interested in the study of art; the program demands significant time, commitment to deadlines, and dedication to the quality of their work. Students address a broad interpretation of two-dimensional issues and media. Students are to demonstrate compositional mastery through many two-dimensional media and processes. The purpose of the course is to create and assemble artwork in a culminating portfolio that is grounded in the artist's attentive use of the elements and principles, the quality of craftsmanship, variety of media, and ability to build upon a cohesive theme.

ADVANCED PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

YEARLONG

Prerequisite: Intermediate Studio course

This course is an intensive studio class tailored to the individual. This advanced level studio art course refines artistic skills and theories while continuing to investigate more advanced methods and concepts. Students prepare portfolios, present their work, participate in critiques, and research aesthetic theory and art history. Through the continuing development of technique and perspective, as well as patience and discipline, students learn to effectively communicate through their art. (Full-credit course, open to fifth and sixth forms)

PIANO CLASS

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

This piano class welcomes students of all skill levels, from beginners eager to start their musical journey to advanced players looking to refine their craft. Beginners will build a strong foundation in piano by learning proper technique,



basic music theory, and how to read sheet music. Advanced students will have dedicated practice time, opportunities to perform in class and at chapel or convocation when ready and will gain insight into piano pedagogy by mentoring beginner students. By the end of the course, all participants will leave with a deeper appreciation for piano music and a greater understanding of the dedication and discipline required to master a musical instrument.

VOCAL CLASS

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

Explore the art of singing in this vocal class, where you'll develop essential skills to enhance your voice and musicality. Learn proper vocal techniques, posture, and breath control to maximize your sound and expression. Master the basics of reading sheet music, solfège, and rhythm, and discover the joy of harmonizing with others in a group setting. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced singer, this class will help you refine your vocal abilities and build confidence in your musical journey.

ORCHESTRA

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

Prerequisite: 1 year of experience

Join the Asheville School Orchestra and immerse yourself in the joy of making music as part of a vibrant community! This class is open to students with at least one year of experience on their instrument and offers the chance to perform a wide-ranging repertoire, from timeless classical pieces to contemporary arrangements. Participation in the orchestra will help you hone your ensemble skills, refine your technique, and strengthen your ability to collaborate with others, both musically and socially. Regular rehearsals and performances, including the winter showcase, spring concert, and chapel services, will build teamwork, discipline, and confidence. Whether you play a stringed instrument, woodwind, brass, or percussion, this class offers a unique opportunity to grow as a musician and contribute to unforgettable musical experiences.

FILM PRODUCTION

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

This course will concentrate on visual storytelling with a focus on screenwriting, sound, cinematography, editing and post-production. In this class we will view a series of classic and contemporary films. This will allow for discussion and evaluation of these movies as well as cultural experience of movie appreciation. The discussion and engagement around watching these films will be focused on the art of visual storytelling. Students will use these examples to then go through the process of turning something written on the page to being viewed on the screen, getting hands-on experience with writing, filming, and editing. This will culminate in several original short films and projects done both individually and as part of a class production team.



ADVANCED FILM PRODUCTION

YEARLONG

Prerequisite: Instructor Permission

A year long course for those that have taken the introductory Film Production class and wish to pursue directing and film editing in more depth. This class will move beyond the rudimentary film making techniques and apply these skills in a series of short films, documentaries and projects.

DRAMA

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

This course introduces students to the theatrical arts. We emphasize creativity, collaboration, and perseverance. Areas covered in depth include theatre vocabulary, roles in the theatre, movement, acting, the reading of plays, theatre design and tech, and viewing theatre performances. Projects over the trimester will include monologues, scenes, presentations, and improvisation.

ADVANCED DRAMA

TRIMESTER 1

Prerequisite: Instructor Permission

Offered in the Fall Trimester, this class builds a small production to perform both on campus and in other venues. This will be a small cast production and culminates in being adjudicated at the NCTC High School Play competition. This trimester will also include a monologue workshop and review preparing for college / professional auditions. Previous performance experience in performance is required to participate in this class.

TECHNICAL THEATER

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

This class is oriented towards learning about the basics of scenic design, set construction, and lighting design. Students will learn how to use power tools, practice building set pieces and scenic painting, learn how to read and interpret basic technical drawings, learn how to care for lighting equipment, and get hands-on experience with hanging and focusing lights.

ADVANCED TECHNICAL THEATER (AUDIO / VISUAL)

YEARLONG

Prerequisite: Instructor Permission

A yearlong class that focuses on practical skills that are needed to run events, activities, and programs. Students in this class apply these skills by providing support to campus events such as: chapels, convocations, coffeehouses, all school



events, student life activities and individualized projects from other departments and instructors.

DANCE FIT, FLEX, AND RELAX

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

No Experience needed.

This class is for anyone who wants to improve flexibility, strength, balance, coordination, memory, and experience the joy of moving to build a healthy body, mind, and spirit. No experience is necessary to work toward the same benefits of cross-training in dance recognized by famous athletes and actors. Students increase body awareness and confidence to perform at the highest level mentally and physically whether for the field, the stage, or everyday life. We explore various movement styles including ballet, contemporary, popular social dance, and relaxation techniques to enhance fitness, creativity, collaboration, and self-care. Open to all levels of movers.

MUSICAL THEATER DANCE

TRIMESTER 1

All levels welcome.

Jump into dance with a focus on the various styles and performance skills found in Musical Theater. This class emphasizes the joy of movement and the ability of any level dancer to explore styles rooted in the diverse history of Broadway musicals. Students try out techniques from tap and jazz to contemporary and hip-hop to explore musical interpretation through dance and discover their individual movement style. Resources for this class include working with guest artists, observation of live and recorded performances to explore and reflect on the history and equity of the art form. Open to dancers of all levels.

BALLET BARRE & CONDITIONING

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

All levels welcome.

This class follows the foundational exercises of ballet to develop strength, flexibility, alignment, balance, musicality, movement memory, and the joy of dancing. Students from beginning to advanced levels are welcome to explore ballet for cross-training, as a physical break in the day, or as preparation for performance. Although a full-length ballet class would require 1 1/2-2 hours, this class uses repetition and expands upon exercises found in all levels of ballet to pursue individual student goals. Resources for this class include observation of performances to explore and reflect on the history and equity of the art form. Open to dancers of all levels.



DANCE ENSEMBLE

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

Intermediate to advanced dance experience required.

This course offers an opportunity for dedicated experienced dancers to develop their technical and performance skills as part of an ensemble and collaborate to create dances for on and off-campus events throughout the year. Students enhance their training through the exploration of various styles of dance, and projects are collaborative to reflect the interests and talents of the students. Resources for this class include working with professional guest artists, attending workshops, and observing and creating performances. Students also explore the history and equity of the art form as they develop ways to share the love of dance and serve our community through artistic expression. Previous dance training is required.

CREATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE & INTERNSHIP

TRIMESTER 1, 2, OR 3

No experience needed.

This service-learning course offers the opportunity to explore the arts and creativity as a means to serve the community and produce on and off-campus service experiences. Students work with local organizations to discover needs and explore project ideas through research, brainstorming, and field trips downtown. The coursework emphasizes communication, planning, organization, and collaborative skills to develop one group project and one student choice project. For interested students, project options may lead to internships. Resources include working with various community partners, non-profit organizations, and special events, in Asheville and beyond. The class is highly recommended for students interested in enhancing their creativity while developing service and leadership skills.

BLACK MOUNTAIN COLLEGE INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS

TRIMESTER 1

This course draws inspiration from the historically important example of the Black Mountain College community and the practice of interdisciplinary arts. Students experiment, build observational skills, and embrace creative process as they work to understand the elements inherent in all the arts and how art is embed into everyday life. We explore various arts processes in both visual and performing arts through visits to museum, viewing performances, and in-class hands on projects. Questions asked through projects include; how do you approach experimentation, risk, and vulnerability, how do we work within limitations, variable circumstances and materials, what are the questions you are asking of yourself, of your creative expression, and your community. Process is emphasized to determine personal interests and lead to a culminating student choice art project.

