The nation's premier performing and visual arts high school. Preparing future leaders in the arts and beyond.
In the Musical Theatre Department, students master storytelling in three different disciplines: voice, dance, and acting. Performance is a key part of learning, and students have ample opportunity for it. The Musical Theatre Department produces three to four mainstage shows per year, including two musical productions and several plays as part of the Shakespeare Festival collaboration with the Theatre Department.

The Academy Dance Department is recognized as one of the leading preparatory institutions for the top dance companies in the country. Students take a foundational class in ballet every day, delving deep into classical technique. Students also study jazz, modern, pointe, and pas de deux. Academy dancers will have the opportunity to audition for The Academy's repertory company, and perform in Chicago and beyond.

Media Arts majors explore their vision within the following distinctive disciplines: as animators, writers, and filmmakers. The program includes classes in animation, poetry, fiction, screenwriting, cinematography, and fictional, documentary, and experimental video. Above all, the Media Arts Department focuses on storytelling. The process-based program values workshop, a weekly critique session, and is designed to hone a student's voice and ideas—and their ability to communicate both to an audience.

The Academy Music Department curriculum is firmly rooted in the traditions of classical music, jazz, and composition, and is comprised of high-level private study, academic music courses, chamber ensembles, jazz ensembles and performances, and masterclasses with world-renowned artists. The focus of the Music Department is private instruction, and each student has two weekly 45-minute private lessons.

There are so many rewarding aspects —the hands-on education, the extra tutoring, the artistic training. I would tell any other parent that The Academy is a place where kids can be themselves, and they will learn to believe in themselves as well.”

—Patrick, Visual Arts Parent

Besides the dance education, which has been top notch, it’s the people. You have so many people who work in other art forms that can inspire you, and in turn inspire your own art.”

—Lillie, Dance
The commitment The Academy makes to its students and their families is everlasting. I would like more parents considering this school to realize that the full potential of their teenager can be achieved with the patience, acceptance, and inclusion found within this very special place.”

–Michelle, Visual Arts Parent

“The faculty are unique because you really know them. You have teachers that you consider friends. And the amount of training they can provide you — I don’t know anywhere else like it.”

–Jacob, Theatre
The Academy's admissions process consists of two-phases: an audition for one of the school's six arts departments, and—for students who pass—an academic review. We know the process can be daunting, but also exciting, and we are here to help your family every step of the way. The best place to start is by simply getting to know us better.

Please contact the Academy Admissions Office at 312.421.0202 with any questions, and keep the important dates below in mind.

Find more information, news, and important registration details at chicagoacademyforthearts.org.

Kitsana Salyphone  
Director of Enrollment Management  
ksalyphone@chicagoartsacademy.org

The academic faculty is comprised of remarkable individuals who embrace the experience of teaching young artists to be great thinkers, too. The students are equally as remarkable, each not only supporting their friends but also pushing them to work hard and follow their dreams.”

–Laura, Dance Parent

You don’t often get to pick the community where your child grows up. This is an opportunity to do that, and there is no other community I would choose.”

–Liz, Media Arts Parent

Photos by Thomas Mohr Photography