



SCHOOL PROFILE

2022 – 2023

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School Code: 221480

Independent Arts and Academic Boarding
and Day School for Grades 9–PG

Accredited by the New England
Association of Schools and Colleges

THE SCHOOL

Walnut Hill School for the Arts is an international leader in the education of young artists. We combine renowned training in five core disciplines—dance; music; theater; visual art; and writing, film & media arts—with an innovative and rigorous college-preparatory curriculum.

THE FACULTY

There are 42 full-time teaching faculty and 22 part-time instructors. In addition to full-time Walnut Hill faculty, our arts teachers are drawn from local organizations such as the Boston Ballet, Boston Symphony Orchestra, New England Conservatory, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, and Boston University. The student-to-faculty ratio is 7:1.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In March 2020, Walnut Hill closed its campus and moved our Spring semester online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in an effort to ensure equality for all students, regardless of personal resources or circumstances, adopted a Pass/Fail grading scale. To earn a Pass, students had to complete all formative and summative assignments and demonstrate proficiency. The Pass/Fail grades were not computed into the students' GPAs.

In the Fall of 2020, Walnut Hill reinstated a grading scale of A-F, and in order to adapt our curriculum to hybrid and remote learning formats, classes went from semester-based to quarter-based. In this new quarter-based curriculum, students could take up to five academic credits each year, with two to three academic courses per quarter. The Math department also updated its curriculum so that each course was taught year long for one full credit. Prior to Fall 2020, students could take up to six academic credits each year, with two to three academic courses each semester.

As of Fall 2021, all Walnut Hill courses have been taught on campus and have returned to semester-based learning, aside from our Math curriculum which is still year long. While students can only take up to five academic credits each year, seniors (and sophomore and juniors with permission) can elect to take an additional course through Global Online Academy.

CULTURE OF LEARNING

Being a "Walnut" means living, working, and studying with a diverse and talented community of creative and passionate people from across the country and the globe. Walnut Hill's response to changing times, preparing our students to thrive as artists in today's interdisciplinary and collaborative world, include the following:

GLOBAL ONLINE ACADEMY

Walnut Hill School for the Arts is a member of Global Online Academy, a consortium of the world's leading independent schools whose mission is to reimagine learning to empower students and educators to thrive in a globally-networked society. Walnut Hill offers GOA courses to extend and enrich the offerings of the academic program and are only open to seniors and by permission to sophomores and juniors. All GOA courses and course grades will appear on Walnut Hill's official transcript, identified as GOA courses, but will not be included in calculating a student's academic GPA.

KALEIDOSCOPE

In the month of January, Walnut Hill School for the Arts pauses its regular program schedule to explore creativity and innovation through dynamic artistic experiences and interdisciplinary courses. Kaleidoscope is an intensive and immersive three-week experience where students are encouraged to think differently,

embrace challenges, and try again. At its core, the program is designed to foster and cultivate originality, ingenuity, and innovation. Students are assessed around the following learning goals: individual skills, collaborative skills, and time management and receive grades labeled as High Pass (HP), Pass (P), or Fail (F).

ART 360

ART360 is a program that allows students to take a class in another discipline that may interest or excite them. It provides a weekly window into a different art form or a deep dive into current topics and mediums. It allows students to make art with their peers across majors, something that is typically difficult to experience given the intense, major-specific schedule at Walnut Hill.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Typically, students take two or three academic courses each semester. Most courses are taught for 17 weeks, five days per week, in four 70-minute blocks. This schedule allows students greater depth of focus in individual academic subjects.

Each semester-length academic course yields one academic credit. Each year-long math course yields one academic credit. At Walnut Hill, grades are issued on a semester basis (December and June) for all courses except math. Math will open interim grades in December and final grades in June.

In addition to intensive training in individual arts areas, Walnut Hill requires a minimum of 16 academic credits to graduate: four credits of English, three credits of math, two credits of history (one of which must be U.S. History), two credits of laboratory science, three credits of a modern language, and additional credits as selected by the student.

Walnut Hill does not rank or weight grades. The grading system is as follows: A (94–100), A- (90–93), B+ (87–89), B (84–86), B- (80–83), C+ (77–79), C (74–76), C- (70–73), D+ (67–69), D (64–66), D- (60–63), F (below 60).

ACADEMIC COURSES AND LEVELS

Below is a brief description of our departments, along with a note about the highest-level classes offered in each.

English

All English classes are designed around a program of close reading, critical thinking, analytical writing, and reflection. In 2019, 9th graders were required to take Freshman Humanities Seminar, which was a two credit course that combined both English and History that was taught for the entire year. In 2020–2021 when all courses were divided into quarters, 10th graders were required to select two courses which included Collage, Dystopian Worlds, Lower School Writing & Thinking (required for incoming 10th graders), Personal Essay, Translation and Transformation, and Writers in the Community for half credit each. Writing and Thinking is required for incoming 11th & 12th grade students. The most demanding English course is Senior Seminar, which is offered through an application process to 12th graders. Introduction to Creative Writing is offered as an English elective to 11th and 12th graders (this course is not open to WFMA majors).

History

The typical History curriculum includes Cultures in Conflict and Modern-isms (in 2020–2021 10th graders were required to take both courses for half credit each), The Modern World, and United States History. Upper-level history electives are open to 12th graders and to 11th graders by permission and include 20th Century U.S. History through Art & Media, Development & Global Justice, History Lab, and Queer History in the 20th & 21st Centuries in America. Music majors are required to take Music History in 12th grade. The Modern Middle East and Activism and Democracy were also offered as electives in 2021–2022. All of our upper-level history electives are weighed equally.

THE STUDENT BODY

There are 289 students enrolled at Walnut Hill. It is a diverse community with students from all regions of the United States (29 states and Washington, DC) and 19 countries.

The student enrollment is as follows:

65	60	63
DANCE	MUSIC	THEATER
75	26	92
VISUAL ART	WRITING, FILM & MEDIA ART	STUDENTS IN THE CLASS OF 2023



Science

The typical Science curriculum includes Biology and Chemistry. Students who continue work in science elect our most demanding science courses: Physics, Chemistry 2, Biology 2: Anatomy & Physiology, Biology 2: Environmental Science, and Biology 2: Food Science.

Math

The core sequence of our Math curriculum consists of five full-year, one-credit courses, which includes Math I: Foundations of Algebra and Geometry, Math 2: Intermediate Algebra, Math 3: Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry, Precalculus, and Calculus, which is our most demanding math class offered. Students who have completed Math 3 can elect to take courses in Statistics and Math Applications. Advancement into upper-level math classes is dependent on students meeting a minimum prerequisite grade in the previous level.

Language

All of our Language classes (beginning with the introductory level) are conducted in full immersion. This means that many students who transfer to Walnut Hill are placed into a lower-level language class to hone their skills. The most demanding language classes we offer are French 5/6 and Spanish 5/6/7.

English Language Learning: The school offers both Intermediate and Advanced courses in ELL for credit in English. ELL Writing and Thinking and Creating America are sheltered courses designed to support students who have completed the ELL curriculum as they transition to mainstream English.

ARTS PROGRAM

Dance

Boston Ballet School's Professional Division at Walnut Hill is a one-of-a-kind education and dance training program that offers world-renowned dance instruction with a best-in-class college preparatory program to provide students with a holistic educational experience. The joint program educates and trains students for a future with Boston Ballet, the professional dance

world and beyond, including the world's best conservatories, universities, and colleges.

Music

The New England Conservatory at Walnut Hill is an internationally acclaimed program. Designed in the tradition of the great European conservatories, it is the only program in the country that links a major conservatory and an independent school. Bringing students into the life of a professional music community, the program allows students to study in a conservatory environment while still in high school, receiving a combination of arts and academic training unparalleled at the secondary level.

Theater

The objective of the Theater program is to develop skilled and disciplined theater students who possess a high standard of excellence and appreciation of artistic integrity. The Theater Department strives to challenge students both artistically and intellectually so that they may become critical and creative thinkers while developing professional skills and attitudes.

Visual Art

Within a professional studio environment, Visual Art students explore various fundamental artistic processes. Working closely with faculty and peers, the students develop a personal artistic language through intensive instruction in the disciplines of drawing, painting, ceramics, graphic design, photography, fibers, and metals.

Writing, Film & Media Arts (WFMA)

Writing, Film & Media Arts majors focus on developing an original voice and vision. Whether their primary creative interests lie in crafting poetry, developing screenplays, creating short films, or engaging in other forms of filmmaking and writing, this program unites students in their passion to produce compelling stories using text and image. This curriculum is supplemented by opportunities to edit, publish, curate, and collaborate inside and outside the major.

2018 – 2022 Matriculation List

Academy of Art University
American Musical and
Dramatic Academy
American University
Art Center College of Design
Babson College
Ball State University
Bard College
Barnard College
Bellevue College
Berklee College of Music
Boston College

Boston Conservatory
at Berklee
Boston University
Brandeis University
Bryant University
Bucknell University
Butler University
Cal Poly Humboldt
California College of the Arts
California Institute of
the Arts
Carnegie Mellon University

Central Saint Martins
College of Art & Design
Champlain College
Chapman University
Chelsea College of Art
and Design
Christopher Newport
University
Clemson University
Cleveland Institute of Music
Colburn School
College for Creative Studies

College of Charleston
College of the Atlantic
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Cooper Union for the
Advancement of Science
and Art
Cornell University
Curtis Institute of Music
Dominican University of
California

2018–2022 MATRICULATION LIST CONT.

Drew University
Drexel University
Eastman School of Music of
the University of Rochester
Elon University
Emerson College
Esmod Paris
Fairfield University
Fordham University
Framingham State
University
George Washington
University
Harvard University
Hussian College Los Angeles
Indiana University
Ithaca College
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
The Juilliard School
Kenyon College
London College of Fashion
Loyola Marymount
University
Manhattan School of Music
Mannes College (The New
School)
Marymount Manhattan
College
Massachusetts College of
Art and Design
McGill University
Middlebury College
Molloy College
Muhlenberg College
The New England
Conservatory of Music

New York University
Northeastern University
Northern Virginia
Community College
Northwestern University
Oberlin College
The Oberlin Conservatory
of Music
Pace University
Parsons School of Design
(The New School)
Peabody Conservatory
of The Johns Hopkins
University
Pennsylvania Academy of
the Fine Arts
Pennsylvania State
University
Pitzer College
Point Park University
Pomona College
Pratt Institute
Quinnipiac University
Rhode Island School
of Design
Rider University
Ringling College of Art
and Design
Roosevelt University
Royal Academy of Music
Royal College of Music:
London
Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland
Royal Scottish Academy of
Music and Drama
Royal Welsh College of
Music and Drama

Salve Regina University
Santa Barbara City College
Santa Monica College
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art
and Design
School of the Art Institute
of Chicago
School of Visual Arts
SciencesPo: Reims
Seattle University
Simmons University
Skidmore College
Smith College
Southern Methodist
University
Spelman College
Stanford University
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
SUNY at Purchase College
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas State University
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University
Tulane University
Tunxis Community College
University of Arizona
University of Bath
University of Cincinnati
University of
Colorado Boulder
University of Denver
University of Hartford

University of Maine
at Farmington
University of
Massachusetts: Amherst
University of
Massachusetts: Lowell
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of New England
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina
School of the Arts
University of Notre Dame
University of Southern
California
University of St Andrews
The University of the Arts
University of the Arts London
The University of Tampa
University of Toronto
University of Vermont
University of Victoria
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Virginia Commonwealth
University
Wagner College
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University
Wheaton College:
Massachusetts
Worcester State University
Yale University



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