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Walsh College of Accountancy and Business Administration is a private, independent, non-profit, and upper-division institution based in Troy, Michigan. Founded in 1922, Walsh provides a transformative business education that combines theory, application, and professional experience to prepare graduates for successful careers. Walsh is a commuter school, primarily serving working adults who are serious about their career aspirations.

Walsh offers business and information technology degrees at the undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral levels. About 60% of Walsh’s 2,800 students are pursuing graduate degrees, making it one of Michigan’s largest graduate business schools.

Walsh enjoys a strong reputation in the regional business community. About 84% of its 29,000 alumni live or work in Michigan. Walsh alumni are highly successful professionals and leaders working in a variety of industries including public accounting, financial services, manufacturing, technology, and health care. In fact, at least one Walsh graduate can be found in nearly all of the Fortune 500 companies located in Michigan.

Course delivery methods include online, traditional in-class, hybrid (combined in-class and online learning), and web conference style. Prior to COVID-19, about 50% of students took all of their courses online. Due to Walsh’s superior online learning and remote education capacity, courses were quickly converted to 100% remote delivery during the pandemic crisis.
Walsh’s reputation for practical education began with the founding of the Walsh Institute of Accountancy and the introduction of the Pace Accounting Method, an innovative way of teaching accounting at the time. Mervyn B. Walsh, a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), purchased a Pace & Pace franchise to offer the Pace Accounting Method exclusively in Detroit. Prior to starting the Walsh Institute, Mervyn Walsh worked for Thomas Edison, helping to raise financing for Edison’s motion picture division.

When Mervyn Walsh retired in 1965, the state of Michigan adopted a bachelor’s degree requirement for candidates to sit for the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination. At this time, Michigan’s community college system was developing, and a pivotal decision was made to build upon, rather than compete with, the community colleges by becoming an upper-division institution (no freshmen or sophomores). Walsh was one of the first institutions to establish transfer agreements with area community colleges. This student-centered approach was evident early in its history and continues to be one of its hallmarks.

The late 1960s through early 1970s brought great changes. Walsh began offering bachelor’s degrees and, a few years later, its first graduate degree, a Master of Science in Taxation. During this period, it moved to Troy, Michigan, which had become a significant corporate center.

**MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES**

Walsh’s mission is to provide “a transformative business education that combines theory, application, and professional experience to prepare graduates for successful careers.” It pledges to “exceed expectations and change lives through education” and is guided by six values: excellence, integrity, respect, accountability, collaboration, and dedication.
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Undergraduates may earn degrees in accountancy, business administration, information technology and applied management. Several majors are available. A “FastTrack” program enables undergraduates to take four courses toward their master’s degree, saving money and shortening the time to an advanced diploma.

Graduate degrees include accountancy, business administration, finance, IT, IT leadership, management, marketing, organizational leadership, and taxation. Dual-degree programs give MBA students an opportunity to graduate with an additional credential, a Master of Science degree, by taking four to six additional courses. A dual degree can demonstrate broader knowledge as well as potentially offering a competitive edge in the marketplace. Currently, the most highly-enrolled graduate programs are accounting, the MBA, and finance.

Students may earn a doctorate in management, with three additional doctoral programs (including a much needed PhD completion program) under review by the Higher Learning Commission.

Graduate-level certificates are offered in cybersecurity, global project and program management, and human resources management. In addition, Walsh offers several non-credit professional certification preparatory programs.

Academic programs blend theory and practical application. Students are provided course delivery options to suit their learning styles: small classes on campus, fully online, or hybrid courses that combine a classroom and online experience — the best of both worlds. Walsh offers four 11-week semesters to help students keep their career goals on track.

Walsh regularly assesses student outcomes and uses the data to improve both student performance and instructional methods. In addition to program and course-level outcomes, assessment is conducted through the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+), developed by the Council for Aid to Education, and Major Field Tests, published by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), as well as graduate performance on national discipline-specific exams (e.g., CPA, CMA). On most comparative measures, Walsh graduates outperform peers nationally.

Students come first at Walsh. It very proudly is a teaching institution, with a faculty of practitioners who impart both the theoretical and practical knowledge to help graduates achieve success. For this reason, Walsh rightfully has earned much recognition and many awards, signified by the listing below.
ACADEMIC PROGRAM AWARDS

- BBA in Management ranked 5th in the United States for Best Online Bachelor’s Degree Programs in Business Administration, Online Schools Report, 2020
- MBA ranked sixth for Best Online MBA, 2020
- Online MBA named one of the best programs in the country not requiring a GMAT score by Intelligent.com, a publication focused on helping students make informed decisions about higher education programs, 2020 and 2019
- Online MBA program ranked as Tier One Global Online MBA by CEO Magazine, 2020 and 2019. Data collected from 144 schools from 25 countries, with ranking in the top 25%
- Ranked as one of the Best Online Cybersecurity Master’s Degree Programs by Student Training in Education and Public Service (STEPS), 2020. Received highest ranking of any Michigan school
- Best Online Master’s Management Degrees: Ranked 7th, Guide to Online Schools, 2020
- Best Online Master’s Human Resources Degrees: Ranked 9th, Guide to Online Schools, 2020
- Best Online Master’s Finance Degrees: Ranked 9th, Guide to Online Schools, 2020
- Best Online College, TheBestSchools.org, 2018
- Best Online Programs for Master’s in Finance, Marketing and Network Security, TheBestSchools.org, 2019
- Master of Science in Taxation (MST) ranked 14th in U.S. based on survey of Tax Hiring Authorities and seventh in the survey of MST alumni
- Master’s in Accounting tied for 8th in U.S. based on a 2018 survey of Master of Science in Taxation degree alumni

Military Friendly. Named by G.I. Jobs magazine as a “Military Friendly School” for 8th consecutive year. Military Times magazine recognized Walsh as one of 75 select national institutions ranked as a “Best for Vets Business College.” Walsh was the first private Michigan college to become an official signatory to the “8 Keys to Veterans’ Success,” a set of specific strategies that colleges and universities can implement to support educational success for student veterans of the armed forces.

Student Competition Success. The Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) Cup hosts “The Premier MBA Competition.” In the seven years this competition was held, Walsh earned first place in four of those years, and second place in the other three years among Michigan university competitors.

Fortune 500 Connection. A Walsh graduate can be found in nearly all of the Fortune 500 companies in Michigan.

Academic Cyber Standards. Walsh’s graduate information technology curriculum conforms to rigorous federal agency standards. As a designated National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense, it meets two external standards: Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security NICE framework.

IMA Endorsement. The accounting undergraduate degree program is endorsed by the Institute of Management Accountants.

First Female CPA. In 1930, Walsh alumna Grace Dimmer was Michigan’s first woman to earn a CPA.

Student Loan Responsibility. Walsh’s 2016 three-year cohort-default rate for loans was just 2.3%, well below the national average default rate of 10.1% and the state of Michigan average of 11.5%.

Going Green. The renovation and addition to the original Troy campus earned a LEED Silver certification and was honored by the American School & University 2017 Educational Interiors Showcase in the Collegiate Citation and Administrative Areas/Office categories. The Jeffery W. Barry Center at the Troy campus is LEED Gold certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.

A SAMPLE OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCE LAB – using Bloomberg and Factset databases and enabling students to earn the prestigious Bloomberg Marketing Concepts Certification. Recently, a Walsh graduate student achieved “Worldwide Top 3” first-place status on the Bloomberg Aptitude Test. Take a Virtual Tour.

CYBERSECURITY – through realistic, hands-on experiences with physical security countermeasures and leading-edge technologies used by cybersecurity professionals, the Cyber Lab offers workstations, virtualization screens, and threat maps pinpointing virus and malware infestations around the world. The “cloud” environment enables penetration testing and defense deployment from anywhere in the world.

MARK SOLOMON TAX RESEARCH CENTER – hosting the Mark Solomon Tax Symposium for tax professionals, students, and leading minds in the industry and holding the Walsh tax collection, considered by tax professionals to be the most extensive in Michigan.
PARTNERSHIPS

As an upper-division institution, Walsh’s relationships with community colleges are vital to its success. During the last two years, Walsh has taken its relationship with two of the largest community college feeder schools to the next level, developing and implementing joint strategies to benefit all three institutions. The strategies include joint student recruiting and branding, expansion of concurrent enrollment, and program collaboration.

Walsh has partnered with the College for Creative Studies (CCS) since 2013 to offer business courses to CCS students at the CCS Detroit campus. The courses provide CCS students, who are educated in the creative sciences, with a foundation of business education to further their career goals as independent artists, designers, entrepreneurs, or business owners.

Walsh established a partnership with The University College of Economics and Culture (UCEC) of Riga, Latvia in 2014 to create educational and cultural opportunities for students and faculty from both institutions. Since the partnership’s inception, Walsh students have participated in a study-abroad program comingled with UCEC students. In addition, Walsh co-sponsors the annual Emerging Trends in Economics, Culture and Humanities Conference in Riga, with Walsh faculty presenting their research, delivering keynote presentations, serving as reviewers, and holding positions on the scientific conference and editorial boards of the Economics and Culture Journal.

FACULTY

Walsh’s top-flight faculty are academically credentialed and highly respected with professional expertise. The faculty consists of 24 full-time positions and 130 adjunct faculty members. Adjunct faculty members teach the majority of course sections. As a group, the faculty hold more than 55 different professional certifications. Walsh does not offer faculty tenure.

A faculty senate was established in 2012, and it is in the development and maturation stage. All full-time faculty members are invited to participate in the faculty senate, which meets monthly. The president may request to be on the agenda or will be invited to discuss a specific topic. The faculty senate recommends faculty delegates to the president and the provost to serve on designated Board committees and to represent the faculty at full Board meetings.

STUDENTS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES

About 40% of Walsh’s 2,800 students are undergraduates, almost all working adults who enroll part-time. The average age of the student body is 30 and about 15% are from underrepresented racial/ethnic identities. Walsh has educated women from its inception, and about half of the current students are women. Almost all of the graduate students also enroll part-time; approximately 25% are from underrepresented racial/ethnic identities and 50% are women.

The majority of students, including students taking fully remote coursework, hail from Michigan, but 2% come from other states. About 65 international students enroll each semester.

The persistence rate for first-to-second year undergraduates is 87%; one-year persistence of graduate students is 78%. The graduation rate is 66% for undergraduates and 44% for graduate students within four years.

Walsh benefits from extensive recruiting opportunities for students and from the institution’s extensive alumni representation in corporations across the state. More than 1,000 firms per year seek Walsh students and graduates. Publicly available data (primarily LinkedIn) reveal that employment of both bachelor’s and master’s degree recipients is excellent.
Walsh is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) accredits specific degree programs. From the time of initial accreditation, Walsh has been extended full accreditation for the maximum years available. The ACBSP self-study and site visit were recently completed. The HLC self-study will be complete in August in preparation for an October 2020 site visit.

ACCREDITATION

Walsh has four locations in Metro Detroit. The Troy campus is owned by Walsh and, in 2015, underwent a $15-million renovation and expansion, with new features such as:

- One-Stop Student Services
- Fireside Student Lounge
- Student Organization & Alumni Room
- Auditorium Equipped for Distance Learning
- 10 Student Study Rooms
- Campus Recruiter Interview Rooms
- Veterans’ Room
- Mother’s Room
- Testing Center

The other locations are strategically placed on community college campuses — the University Center at St. Clair Community College and Oakland Community College. The Novi location, owned by Walsh, will be closed after the Spring 2020 semester. Walsh is reviewing real estate and leasing options.

CAMPUS LOCATIONS
SURROUNDING AREA

Walsh’s main campus is in Troy, Michigan, part of Oakland County, which is one of the wealthiest counties in the United States. The city of Troy is home to 6,000 businesses employing 125,000 people, including some of the most advanced technology companies in the world. Troy is the second-most diverse city in Michigan with 80 languages spoken. The significant number of corporate headquarters provides an infusion of international talent that contributes to its diversity.

In addition to being a strong business hub, Troy’s residential features rival any mid-size city. It has one of the lowest property tax rates in the area and, yet, the school district is ranked A+ by the Detroit News. City services are second to none. Troy is consistently ranked as one of the safest cities in Michigan and has earned many quality-of-life awards.

The Troy School District received a perfect rating from the educational nonprofit GreatSchools. It is one of only four school districts in Michigan to receive an A+ rating from the Detroit News. Troy high schools are among the top 4% of all U.S. high schools, according to Newsweek. The District boasts seven National Exemplary Blue Ribbon Schools awards and has earned several Best Community for Music Education awards. It was also awarded the District Advanced Placement Equity & Excellence Award.

Surrounding Walsh are several other premier communities which offer a wide range of living options, from city to country. Rich in natural resources with a balance of urban and rural environments, Oakland County is a beautiful backdrop for modern lifestyle conveniences. The County has more natural lakes than any other state county, about 90,000 acres of parks, three major downhill ski sites, and two water parks. In addition to several elite private country clubs, it is home to more than 60 public golf courses. Events and destinations include jazz and art festivals, the Woodward Dream Cruise, the DTE Music Theatre, the Detroit Zoo, and the Cranbrook Institute of Science and Art Museum. An extensive collection of malls and marketplaces, ranging from small village malls to popular downtown shopping districts with upscale restaurants, meet a wide range of tastes and budgets.

The region hosts four major professional sports teams and extensive, modern, amateur recreational facilities for adults and children.

A revitalized downtown Detroit includes the Detroit Institute of Arts, Greektown, the People Mover light-rail, an outdoor ice skating rink, casinos, and one of the largest theater districts in the U.S.

The state of Michigan offers an incredibly diverse array of vacation and day-trip options. Just a few hours north awaits the perfect weekend getaway. Explore spectacular Lake Michigan, the longest freshwater coastline in the U.S. with sunsets rivaling the Caribbean. Enjoy fishing and boating on one of Michigan’s 11,000 inland lakes. Step back in time to Mackinac Island, where the only means of travel are by horse, bike, or on foot. Wineries, breweries, art shows, music festivals, winter sports, and cozy downtowns provide year-round enjoyment. For more on Michigan leisure activities, click here.
Marsha Kelliher, J.D., LL.M, became president in 2017, bringing decades of academic leadership, teaching, business, and legal experience to her role. Prior to joining Walsh, Kelliher served as Dean of Sigmund Weis School of Business at Susquehanna University. President Kelliher has accepted the presidency at Simpson College effective June 1, 2020. Trustee Jerry Schafer will assume the role of interim president, and he is not seeking the presidential position.

President Kelliher was named to the 2019 Notable Women in Education list by Crain’s Detroit Business and as one of the Most Powerful Business Leaders in Metro Detroit in Education by DBusiness’ magazine Detroit 500. She is a member of the Executive Committee of Michigan Independent Colleges and Universities, the board of the Detroit Economic Club, the Army-Southeast Michigan Advisory Council, and the board of trustees of Henry Ford Macomb Hospital.

During her tenure, President Kelliher implemented a new strategic plan, launched new academic programs, strengthened the accreditation maintenance process, introduced new technology, assisted in securing new trustees, and improved enrollment management strategies. She laid a solid foundation for Walsh’s future.

The 28-member Board of Trustees provides leadership and decision making at the policy level. The Board is primarily composed of individuals with business backgrounds, which fits well with Walsh’s mission. The Board strives to have at least one individual from academia.

The Board of Trustees has become more diverse in gender, ethnicity, and industry representation and is a good blend of individuals who are very familiar with Walsh through previous affiliations and those who add a fresh perspective. Trustees, who were initially not associated with Walsh, have become strong supporters. Alumni representation on the Board is about 45%. The Trustees are engaged and supportive.

The Board of Trustees has five committees, where most of the analysis and detailed discussions take place. The Provost works closely with the Academic Committee Chair of the Board of Trustees.
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES
FOR THE NEXT PROVOST

Walsh seeks a highly experienced and nimble academic leader accomplished in leading change and thoroughly knowledgeable about preparing adult students for successful careers in business and technology. The Provost, serving as the Chief Academic Officer, will be well informed about trends in higher education and alternative and flexible modes of education delivery and will champion students, demonstrating dedication to meeting their needs. Working in a collaborative environment, the Provost will have opportunities to:

• Partner with a newly-appointed president, other officers, and trustees to achieve ambitious goals set forth in the current 2023 Strategic Plan as well as reviewing the Plan for potential modifications;
• Re-examine the Walsh curriculum and program portfolio, mindful of employment trends, the market, and the institution’s intellectual and educational strengths;
• Lead the development and successful, timely implementation of innovative program ideas, including new doctoral degrees;
• Strategize with colleagues to attract new populations of students, improve enrollment, and enhance student achievement;
• Work with existing and new partner educational institutions and with the wealth of area businesses and industries to better serve the region’s college-going, working population;
• Oversee an expanded academic and student services portfolio;
• Grow and nurture the relatively new shared governance systems; and
• Continue Walsh’s excellent record of regional and specialized accreditation for existing programs, and partner with the new president to oversee the successful approval of new doctoral and other programs.

DESIREDE CHARACTETRISTICS

• Earned doctorate degree required with preference for candidates who possess one degree in a business discipline or in IT; private sector experience a plus;
• Ability to represent the President when called upon and act on the President’s behalf as requested;
• Previous experience as an academic dean or academic department head, with an understanding of and commitment to shared governance;
• Highly knowledgeable in assessment of student learning and accreditation matters, with a preference for experience with HLC;
• A proven leader who possesses the presence, demeanor, credentials, intelligence, vision, and communication skills to earn the respect of others, collaborate well, achieve mission and strategic plans, and represent Walsh in a variety of settings;
• Experience and success in leading and managing a large division or organization, including strategic planning, resource management, and curriculum review and development;
• Success in fostering innovation and continuous improvement, and a quick study in finding opportunities in the rich surrounding area to build upon Walsh’s prominence;
• Experience with contemporary instructional methods for adult learners and a strong commitment to online learning and alternative delivery methods;
• Experience with advising and other initiatives designed to foster student retention and high achievement; and
• Proactive self-starter capable of managing time and priorities effectively while accomplishing planned objectives.
Applications, inquiries, and nominations may be sent in complete confidence to WalshProvost@academicsearch.org. Applications should include a: 1) curriculum vitae, 2) letter of interest that addresses the opportunities and challenges listed in this profile, and 3) the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of five references. References will not be contacted without permission.

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Full consideration will be given to all applications received by Wednesday, June 24th. The provost’s search is taking place concurrently with the search for the next president of Walsh, with the candidate pool created for the newly named president’s consideration.

Academic Search (Washington, DC) is assisting Walsh in this search. Dr. Sharon Herzberger, the Senior Consultant leading this search, may be reached at sharon.herzberger@academicsearch.org. Additional information about Walsh is available at www.walshcollege.edu.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY
Walsh values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity for all persons regardless of age, color, disability, ethnicity, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status or any other status protected by law.
ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search, Inc. is assisting Walsh College in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services exclusively to institutions of higher education. Academic Search was founded on the principle of strengthening higher education leadership through professional search services. We are the only search firm in the nation with a formal relationship to a premier leadership development program. As the subsidiary of the American Academic Leadership Institute (AALI), Academic Search provides substantial financial support to a number of leadership identification, development, and support programs across all sectors of public and private higher education. For more information, visit www.academicsearch.org/.

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