

# METHODIST UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GHANA

## **PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> MATRICULATION (2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR) HELD ON SATURDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2018 AT THE DANSOMAN CAMPUS**

Presiding Bishop

Bishops and other Members of the Clergy

Members of the MUCG Council

Vice Principal

Registrar

Deans/Directors

Professors and other Members of Convocation

Nii Mei, Naa Mei

Invited Guests

Matriculants

Ladies and Gentlemen

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### **Introduction**

On behalf of the Governing Council and the Academic Board of the Methodist University College Ghana (MUCG), I warmly welcome you all to the 19<sup>th</sup> Matriculation ceremony of MUCG. It is very refreshing for us as an Institution of Higher Education to be matriculating our nineteenth batch of fresh students today.

With the rapidly increasing number of private universities in the country currently, coupled with public universities opening more avenues for increasing intake of students on Distance Education and sandwich programmes; as well as the upgrading of virtually all Polytechnics in our country into Technical Universities, it is increasingly becoming difficult and difficult to attract the required number of qualified applicants into our University to raise enough funds for the

effective running of a good quality education. In addition, as student numbers declined over the years, the cost per unit head for running our programmes increased.

It is time the government and other well-meaning Ghanaians realized that most of the private tertiary institutions in the country are not for profit making but rather are institutions set up to provide support to the government for the provision of quality education for the development of manpower needs of our country and to provide citizenry that is relevant to itself and to society.

My dear fresh students, I congratulate you for going through our admission procedures. You are welcome to MUCG. You will never regret for choosing MUCG as your first choice.

We are starting a new academic year that promises to bring a lot of new things on board. In order to make running of the University College more cost effective and to improve on education delivery, there has been restructuring of our Faculties, Departments and Programmes. Certain programmes and courses that were run previously have been phased out, certain Faculties have been merged and a completely new Faculty has been introduced.

We apologize to our prospective applicants to the programmes and courses that have been phased out and entreat them to consider applying for some of the very attractive package of courses already on offer.

### **Details of the Re-Structuring**

The Wenchi Campus no longer operates as a Faculty. Instead, it operates as a satellite campus of the University College just like Tema Campus. There is no more Faculty of Applied Sciences. However, there is now Faculty of Science made up of the Departments of Mathematics and Actuarial Sciences, Information Technology as well as Nursing and Applied Sciences. The former Faculty of Arts and General Studies has been merged with the former Faculty of Social Studies and known now as the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. A new Faculty known as the Faculty of Educational Studies and Entrepreneurship has been introduced.

In accordance with the restructuring, the following programmes have been phased out with effect from the commencement of the 2018/2019 academic year:

- i. B.Sc General Agriculture
- ii. B.A Music
- iii. B.A French
- iv. B.A Religion, Ethics and Psychology
- v. BFA Theatre Studies
- vi. Diploma in General Agriculture
- vii. Diploma in Music
- viii. Certificate in Agribusiness
- ix. Certificate in Agro-processing
- x. Certificate in Horticulture
- xi. Certificate in Bandmastership
- xii. Certificate in Sound Engineering
- xiii. Certificate in General/Church Music
- xiv. Certificate in Theatre Practice
- xv. Certificate in Information Technology

For this reason, no fresh admission of students has been made in respect of the listed programmes for this academic year. The programmes from Levels 200 to 400 will, however, continue to run until all students undertaking these programmes have completed their studies.

### **Purpose of Occasion**

The purpose of Matriculation Ceremony is to provide fresh students the opportunity to take the Matriculation Oath. The taking of the Matriculation Oath and the signing of the Matriculation Register signify the formal admission of fresh students into the University College as Junior Members of the institution, and enjoin every fresh student to be of good behaviour and obedient

to the Principal or his appointed representative and to every constituted authority while he/she remained a student of the institution.

### **Admission Figures**

Presiding Bishop, our records as at November 2, 2018 indicate that for the 2018/2019 academic year, a total of nine-hundred and five (905) candidates applied for admission to MUCG. Out of this figure, seven-hundred and eighty-eight (788) candidates were offered admission to pursue various programmes of study; five-hundred and eighty-six (586) i.e. 74.4% have accepted the offer and registered for the various courses. The figures per each campus are as follows:

<b>Campus</b>	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Registered</b>
Dansoman Campus	651	585	440
Tema Campus	210	176	137
Wenchi Campus	44	27	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>586</b>

Of these, one-hundred and thirty-seven (137) are into postgraduate (23.4 %) programmes while four-hundred and forty-nine (449) are into undergraduate programmes (76.6 %), and about 55.6 % of these are females. Much as we acknowledge the dwindling admission figures as not being favourable for MUCG, we assure you that we are more concerned with quality delivery.

MUCG has done a lot to attract students by providing excellent facilities on all its campuses. Our lecture halls, library and hostels are among the best in the country. The atmosphere on all our campuses is serene and very conducive for academic work. We have state of the art computer laboratories and an excellent cream of academic staff, who combined with seasoned administrators, give our students the very best of education.

### **Our Faith and Dress Code**

Fresh students, MUCG is a faith-based institution, and we adhere strictly to Christian principles. Though you will be allowed to exercise your rights and responsibilities as University students,

we also encourage you to do so within the rules, regulations, as well as Christian values, and the Laws of Ghana.

We do not compromise on issues of **morality**. You are entreated to avoid all forms of **indecent** - go strictly by the MUCG **Dress Code**. Our ladies are advised not to wear tight-fitting and transparent dresses, sleeveless tops and dresses that have bare backs; you are not to expose your breasts or belly. All skirts and straight dresses must fall well below the knee-level. Gentlemen, as much as possible, we will encourage you to wear your pair of trousers/shorts above your buttocks and up to the waist level always. For both ladies and gentlemen, wearing of tattered trousers and shorts, in the name of fashion, is not permitted on any of our campuses.

In accordance with the mission of MUCG to ensure an all-round development of the student mentally, physically and spiritually on the basis of Christian principles, we have made provision within our academic schedules for Worship Services. On the Dansoman Campus, Worship Services are held on Wednesdays between 10:30 am and midday.

As students, you are to take University Required Courses (URC's) e.g. Ethics, Communication Skills and Contemporary Issues, and pass each at a grade not lower than a 'C'.

To enhance your studies, MUCG has provided good automated libraries with modern facilities on all its campuses.

There is an Academic Support Services Unit (ASSU) which is responsible for handling the complaints of students of our Evening and Weekend Programmes on academic and administrative issues after our main administrative offices are closed at 5.00 pm and at the weekends. The ASSU offices can be found on the ground floor of the North Wing of the Faculty Building at the Dansoman Campus.

There is a Students' Handbook in which we have documented the rules and regulations, which govern your stay at MUCG as a student. You are expected to have a copy to guide you as a

student of MUCG. Those who have not yet obtained their copies should contact the Academic Affairs Office for them.

### **Advice to Matriculants**

- ⦿ You are encouraged to report early from holidays. Most lecturers would take you through the course outlines, reading lists, instructional techniques to be used, the nature of assessments, etc. at the first lecture.
- ⦿ Attend all lectures for all courses and be in session throughout the semester.
- ⦿ At lectures, listen carefully, understand the concepts taught and take notes.
- ⦿ In taking down notes, remove all unnecessary repetitions and unimportant words from the instructor/lecturer.
- ⦿ Don't copy lecture notes from your colleagues. They may contain serious errors which they may have introduced.
- ⦿ Have time to fill in gaps left in notes taken at lectures.
- ⦿ Always go to the internet and the library to top up what was received during lectures.
- ⦿ Answer questions to know the extent of your understanding of the concepts taught and to build your confidence.
- ⦿ Ask necessary and genuine questions to facilitate comprehension.
- ⦿ Learn new concepts taught as frequently as possible.
- ⦿ Read over your notes soon after lectures when time is available.
- ⦿ Understand concepts rather than cramming them.
- ⦿ Always learn with pencil and paper and learn to summarize your notes.

I wish to encourage you to use your time judiciously. Always prepare adequately for your examinations. When preparing to take examinations, eat well and have adequate rest.

Do not cheat during examinations or do someone's academic exercises on his/her behalf. Do not copy a colleague's assignment. Note that the purpose of assignments, class exercises, quizzes and examinations is to help develop your skills and to measure your academic progress. Letting someone do your assignment for you is academic dishonesty, and defeats the purpose of your education.

My dear students:

- ⊙ Avoid promiscuous life;
- ⊙ Avoid pilfering;
- ⊙ Don't be quarrelsome;
- ⊙ Avoid peddling lies/falsehood; and avoid
- ⊙ Any form of drug abuse.

Our goal as an institution of higher learning is not to help you to acquire certificates for enhanced salaries or to gain employment but to change your total outlook, your commitment to duty, your effectiveness as a professional and above all your attitude to life. The programmes you have been admitted into should enable you be functional and relevant to yourself and to society.

Let me remind you that the semester system places a lot of demands on you. It does not only require you to attend lectures regularly and apply yourself consistently to the reading of reference materials, but also requires adopting consistent preparations to take part in class activities such as tests, assignments, quizzes and end of semester examinations. It will interest you to know that you will need good scores in both the continuous assessment and the end of semester examination to be able to make very good grades. You also need to demonstrate high sense of self-discipline towards your studies to be an achiever, which is the hallmark of MUCG.

Take interest and participate in extra-curricular activities that do not conflict with your beliefs, rules and regulations of the University and the laws of Ghana - they will help broaden your horizon to make you fit into society and also create more opportunities for you later in life.

### **Conclusion**

This could be the first time of living independently without direct supervision of your parents or institutional heads, be guided in all that you do. When you have genuine problems we are available to help you come out of them so feel free to share the problems with us, and to be counselled.

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you all for being here and for your attention. I wish you, our fresh students, and a stress free stay at MUCG for the entire duration of your programme. I congratulate you.

May God richly bless us all.