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**PROCEEDINGS OF 2021 MATRICULATION
FEBRUARY 6, 2021
(VIRTUAL CEREMONY)**

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 9.30 a.m.
- Opening
 - National Anthem
 - Statement of Purpose:
College Secretary
 - Vice-Chancellor’s Address
Delivered by the Provost
 - Administration of Matriculation Oath:
College Secretary
 - Address on Expectations of University
Life: Representative of Matriculants
 - Signing of the Matricula
 - University Anthem

**REGISTRAR'S WELCOME ADDRESS
DELIVERED BY THE COLLEGE SECRETARY,
MRS. EMELIA AGYEI-MENSAH**

Good morning distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome all of you to today's virtual matriculation ceremony. As you are aware, the Covid-19 pandemic has led us to change the ways in which we do so many things. We would normally have all gathered in one space to officially welcome our new students to the University, but under the circumstances, we have put together matriculation ceremonies by colleges that are as similar as possible to what face to face matriculation ceremonies would be like.

We are gathered here this morning to matriculate students who have enrolled for courses leading to the award of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at the College of Education, in the 2020-2021 academic year. We will confer on these new students, membership of the University of Ghana.

In March, the University will hold separate virtual matriculation ceremonies for students on the Distance Education programme. Other virtual matriculation ceremonies will also be held for students on special programmes that will take off in the second semester.

Matriculation ceremonies are in line with Article 31 of the University of Ghana Act, 2010, Act 806 which states that:

1. A student admitted to the University shall take the Matriculation Oath and sign the Matriculation Register.
2. A student who fails to sign the Matriculation Register may be prevented from graduating by the University.

Visiting students and other short-stay students who are studying at the University for one or two semesters are not part of this ceremony, but are expected to observe the same rules and regulations as matriculated students, while they are here.

The ceremony is in three parts.

In Part 1, we will hear an address from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, read on his behalf by the Acting Provost of the College of Education, Professor Michael Tagoe.

We will be informed about the significance of the matriculation oath and what the University expects from its students.

In Part 2, students will swear the Matriculation Oath to be administered by the College Secretary on behalf of the Registrar – the oath can be found on the University’s website.

You will repeat the words of the oath after me when it’s time for the oath. Because this is a virtual ceremony, and in keeping with the protocols, we have four students from the College, Rebecca Amoah, Al Jaleel Abdulai Kagbape, Rosina Antwiwaa, and Seth Gyamfi Agyemang, who will take the oath on air, and all other fresh students are to also take the oath.

After the Oath, one representative of the students will tell us the expectations of the 2020/2021 cohort of students and ceremonially sign the Matricula; which is the Latin word for the Register.

The third part of the ceremony takes place online. Each student is to go online and electronically sign the Matriculation Oath. That is the record that indeed you are registered as a student in the University of Ghana, and have accepted to abide by the oath that you are about to swear. I am informed that many of you have already done your registration online. Thank you, and I urge all who have not yet done their registration to go online and do this as soon as this ceremony is over.

Freshmen and women, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Registrar, I wish to say thank you to all colleagues, at all levels, for the roles they have played in the process of admitting students, working on registration, orientation and matriculation, as well as putting the systems in place for the online delivery method that is being used this academic year. This was all done in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, with much work going on over the Christmas break.

Matriculation class of 2021, while you may have joined the University at a time when there are so many upheavals, we look forward to seeing you engage positively and actively in University activities when we are able to remove the restrictions that we are living and working with now.

On that note, let me welcome you all once again, to the University of Ghana. It is now time for the Acting Provost of the College of Education, Professor Michael Tagoe, to present an address on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.

Thank you.

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS
DELIVERED BY THE ACTING PROVOST,
PROF. MICHAEL TAGOE**

Vice-Chancellor,
Senior Management of the University,
Deans, Directors and Heads of Unit,
Members of Convocation,
Freshmen and Women,
Parents and Guardians,
Distinguished Guests from all over the world,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

INTRODUCTION

It is with great delight that I welcome you to the 2020-2021 academic year matriculation ceremony for students of the College of Education, University of Ghana. Today marks the beginning of your university experience, and I congratulate you on your accomplishments which have enabled you to be part of this special event. Today, for the first time in the history of the University, matriculation ceremony is being organized virtually per COVID-19 protocols on social distancing. Ordinarily, you would all have gathered at a colourful ceremony on the Legon campus where you could have in-person interactions with your colleagues, lecturers and administrators. Nonetheless, during the next four years, most of you will be a part of the most respected academic community in Ghana; a community which provides an environment for you to have vast opportunities to expand your understanding of society and the world.

Matriculation into the University of Ghana is a statutory gathering to formally induct freshmen and women as Junior Members into this academically stimulating and socially exciting community. The ceremony which marks a special milestone, is also important for the fact that it offers the opportunity for you, newly admitted students, to pledge your loyalty to the authorities of the University through the administration of the Matriculation Oath. All students are to sign the Matriculation Oath which is a bond of good

behaviour and acceptance of the authority of the Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Disciplinary of the University, as well as all other officers of the University in whom authority has been vested.

In pledging to be of good behaviour, you are committing yourselves to be disciplined and worthy representatives of the University. I expect that matriculants will ponder over the importance of this ceremony and strive to live by the rules and regulations of the University.

ADMISSIONS

Ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana has worked with the relevant agencies and has increased its admissions intake this year, following the graduation of the first batch of Senior High School leavers under the Free SHS programme.

For the 2020/2021 academic year, a total of 15,020 undergraduate students have enrolled, of which figure 49.5 % are females and 50.5% males.

The breakdown of enrolled students according to Colleges is as follows:

COLLEGE	NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS
College of Health Sciences	652
College of Humanities	8,645
College of Basic and Applied Sciences	2,355
College of Education	3,368
Total	15,020

The University also admitted a significant number of students under the following policies on concessionary admission:

- The Affirmative Action Policy for Women;
- Concession for applicants from Less Endowed Schools;
- The Admission of Student-Athletes;
- The Admission of Students with Special Needs.



Prof. Michael Tagoe
Ag. Provost, College of Education



Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah
College Secretary, College of Education



**Rebecca Amoah delivering an address on the
Expectations of University Life**



Matriculants taking the Matriculation Oath

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The social and cultural diversity that the presence of international students promotes at the University of Ghana cannot be overemphasized, as the presence of international students enhances the learning atmosphere and enables Ghanaian students to share in relevant experiences necessary to operate in a globalized World. The University of Ghana, therefore, attaches great importance to the presence of international students on our campus.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on our international students' population this year, with 70 international students registered so far for the 2020/2021 academic year, compared to 409 in the last academic year. Majority of these students are from the African sub-region while the rest are from Asia, Europe and America. We warmly welcome all our international students, and appreciate you for choosing to study at the University of Ghana during these uncertain times. I urge you to feel at home and enjoy your stay in Ghana.

ACCOMMODATION

To ensure adequate social distancing during the 2020/2021 academic year, and in line with COVID-19 safety protocols, two cohorts of students; Levels 100 and 400 are currently in residence on campus for the first part of the first semester. This arrangement has enabled the University to offer residential accommodation to a large number of first-year students. The traditional halls and the UGEL halls together provided 6,984 beds to fresh students while the private Hostels provided 1,255 beds, making a total of 8,239 bed spaces provided to freshly admitted students.

As part of the University's immediate and long term efforts to provide residential accommodation to as many students as possible (especially newly admitted students), the University has set up a committee which is exploring off-campus facilities to augment the current bed spaces within the University campus. As at the middle of January 2021, more than thirty facility owners within 15 kilometres of the Legon campus have applied to make their facilities available to students of the University from the beginning of the second semester of the 2020/2021 academic year. This option and others

will be explored further to help increase bed spaces available to students to ease the challenge associated with residential accommodation on campus in the near future.

FINANCIAL AID

Ladies and gentlemen, the University's Student Financial Aid Office through the benevolence of donors provides full or partial scholarships to needy students to enable them study at the University of Ghana. During the 2019/2020 academic year, the University awarded a total of GHS 2,796,519.00 (Two Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Nineteen cedis) to 981 students. We are indeed grateful to all our cherished donors for their regular support and continuous donation to needy-brilliant students of the University of Ghana.

Financial assistance is also available to undergraduate students through the Students' Loan Trust Fund (SLTF). You may contact the Students' Loan Trust Fund to initiate the process of applying for the Students' Loan. The contact details for the fund can be found in your admission letters.

POLICIES ON STUDENTS' WELFARE

Conducting business in the middle of a pandemic requires that adequate provisions are made to ensure the health and safety of all our staff and students. The University has put in place measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on our campuses, and I encourage you all to adhere to the COVID-19 protocols.

The University of Ghana has in place a number of policies to protect and promote the welfare of its students. This is to ensure that all members of the University operate in an environment free from intimidation, exploitation and abuse. The Anti-Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Counselling Policy and the Library Policy are examples of such policies. All these policies are available on the University website, and I urge you to make time to read them and familiarize yourself with their content.

I urge you all to be security conscious throughout your stay on campus. Always secure your valuables and avoid walking alone in dark places late in the night.

EXCELLENCE AND DISCIPLINE

Freshmen and women, I encourage you to strive for excellence in all that you do, and determine to always be above ordinary standards. The achievements of those who have gone ahead of you should be your motivation to work hard to attain laurels for yourselves and the University.

The University is governed by rules and regulations and there are procedures for engaging in various activities. It is your responsibility as students to acquaint yourselves with the regulations and follow the procedures accordingly. Discipline and civility must reflect in all your actions during your stay in the University. Abstain from all kinds of anti-social behaviours because you will be severely sanctioned by the University if you engage in any activity contrary to the rules and regulations.

CONCLUSION

As I conclude, I would like to remind all matriculants that your primary aim of coming to this University is to go through your chosen academic programme and graduate with flying colours. Always keep this in mind as you go about your activities on campus. For many of you, this is the first time in your life that you will be truly living independently. This is an opportunity to grow and learn as a person, to discover who you are, and of course to make new friends. Be determined to make your parents and all the people who have sacrificed to enable you to be here, proud. Your lecturers and administrators will provide you with the needed mentorship to enable you to accomplish your purpose of being here. Do not forget your God while here because God's guidance will lead you to your expected end.

The University's Careers and Counselling Centre is available to offer assistance if required. Do make time to read notices, regularly check your University of Ghana emails, listen to Radio Unifers on 105.7 FM and regularly visit the University's website www.ug.edu.gh since important information will be communicated to you through these media.

COVID-19 is with us and we are learning to live with it until a cure is found.

Take care not to contract the virus because of your carelessness. Adhere to all COVID-19 protocols wherever you find yourself; wash your hands, wear a face mask and maintain a social distance from others.

On behalf of the Council of the University, members of Convocation, and on my behalf, I would like to congratulate you on your admission and welcome you once again to the University of Ghana.

Thank you and God bless you all.

**EXPECTATIONS OF UNIVERSITY LIFE
DELIVERED BY REBECCA AMOAH**

Vice-Chancellor,
Pro-Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provosts,
Deans,
Directors and other officers of the University,
Dear parents, fellow students and distinguished ladies and gentlemen joining us from all over the world;

I deem it a great honour to be called upon to address this gathering on behalf of my colleague students.

It is the beginning of another academic year and we the newly admitted students of the College of Education, University of Ghana, are trying to find our feet in the new situation in which we find ourselves. We are fortunate to have gained admission to this prestigious University, and it is our goal to study and gain new ideas for the betterment and development of our nation and the world at large.

As the adage goes, “experience is the best teacher”, so as we journey through life, there are experiences we encounter and our experiences so far in this noble institution are no exception.

Back in Senior High School, we thought that being in the University was all about freedom and being able to do what we want, when we want to do it; but being here has made us realize that that is not necessarily the case.

Continuing students inform us that before COVID-19 came into existence, school activities were quite exciting and much easier for students, even though sometimes it seemed tiring and difficult for them. The Coronavirus pandemic has made studying and other activities such as sports, entertainment, church programmes and many others to be done mostly online. We can talk about our online learning Management System “Sakai” where information concerning

our academic activities is uploaded. I'm sure my colleagues will agree with me that there have been quite a number of challenges with Sakai, as well as with the University's Wi-Fi network. But we are certain that the authorities are doing all they can to address these challenges, so that we can actively participate in classes and tutorials, and submit assignments and quizzes in good time.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure you will all agree with me that particularly in this period, as we try to maintain the Covid-19 protocols, there is the need for proper ventilation, particularly in our rooms in the halls of residence. While there are many trees on campus, I believe that more trees would improve ventilation, and I challenge all of us, as freshmen and women, to work with the authorities for the planting of many more trees on all campuses of the University.

I would like to commend the authorities of the University for all the technological advancements that have been introduced: students applied for admission online, were able to check on their admission and download admission letters, select accommodation, make payments and register for courses, all online. All of these saved students a lot of stress, because instead of having to queue for long hours, which would be a health hazard in the times in which we find ourselves, we were able to remain in the comfort and safety of our homes and carry out the needed processes. For this, I say "Ayekoo" to the University authorities and more grease to your elbows.

As the saying goes, "Nipa beyɛ bi nanso wammɛyɛ ne nyinaa", we the freshman class of 2021 students want to tell you that our predecessors did a lot to make this prestigious institution one of the best in the country and in West Africa, but we will contribute our quota and put in much effort to make the University of Ghana even better. We are motivated by the saying; "Education is the key to success". We realize that in order to be successful, we need to be well educated and have questioning and intellectual minds so that we will be able to make our dreams and aspirations come true.

I am sure I speak on behalf of all my colleagues when I say that we pledge to work hard and put in all our effort to attain this goal.

We believe that with hard work and dedication, we will make it. May the Almighty God continue to shower His blessings and grace upon us and upon this noble institution.

Thank you.

