

VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH TO THE UHAS 2013/2014 MATRICULANTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2013

Chairman of Council, Members of Council, The Pro – Vice – Chancellor, The Registrar, Deans and Directors, Faculty, Staff and the 2013/ 2014 matriculants, it is my honour and privilege to welcome you officially to UHAS and this year's matriculation – the second in the history of the University.

Establishment of the University

The University of Health and Allied Sciences was established by an Act of Parliament (ACT 828 of December 2011) as a public university in Ghana. The main campus including the central administration is in Ho. A second campus is located in Hohoe.

The University of Health and Allied Sciences is the first University dedicated only to issues of Health in the country. It is also the first public university to be established in the Volta Region of Ghana. UHAS is a publicly-funded institution with the following vision and mission:

Vision

A pre-eminent research and practically oriented health educational institution dedicated to community service.

Mission

To provide quality educational opportunities to students and healthcare professionals, advance knowledge through scholarship and research and provide patient care and services that improve health and quality of life.

In setting up this institution, it is the intent of Government to provide an avenue to train several categories of health professionals needed to promote good healthy living of the citizens and provide health care to all the citizens of Ghana and beyond.

Structure of the University

Overall, the University will comprise of eight health-related schools, i)the School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences, ii)School of Public Health, iii)School of Nursing and Midwifery, iv)School of Allied Health Sciences, v)School of Medicine, vi)School of Pharmacy, vii)School of Dentistry, and viii)the School of Sports and Exercise Medicine. We will also have three institutes dedicated to issues of health including the Institute of Traditional and Alternative Medicine, the Institute of Health Research, and the Institute of Medical Education. The first 5 schools are up running in Ho and Hohoe using the incubator facilities at the Regional and district hospitals. We have started developing the plans for two more schools. School of Pharmacy and Sports and exercise Medicine.

Facilities:

The structures at the temporary site at Trafalgar and the Nurse complex on the Aflao road are being developed and expanded to provide a healthy teaching and learning environment. The facilities at Hohoe are also not being left out, especially the Onchocerciasis unit at the District Hospital is being refurbished to accommodate faculty and students. Infrastructural development at the permanent site at Sokode Lokoe has started, with our Chinese partners promising to deliver the first faculty buildings within the next 18 months.

Provision of other facilities such as ICT, a functioning Library, staff and student accommodation to enhance effective and efficient teaching and learning are progressing steadily.

Students 2013/2014

You who are matriculating today should count this a privilege because a total of 2396 applications were received for the 2013- 2014 academic year. Out of these numbers, 1140 had between aggregates 6 to 20 which qualified them for admission. However, due to serious infrastructural challenges, places could be offered to only 318 made up of 200 Males and 118 Females out of the lot. SONAM 129; SPH 105; SAHS 47; and SoM 37;

We welcome the additional 41 students from the School of Nursing and Midwifery who have been admitted into level 300 to do a top-up programme in Nursing and in Midwifery. We also welcome the first batch of 16 students from the School of Public Health, located in Hohoe and also admitted into level 300 to do a top-up programme in public health.

Compared to the 2012-2013 admissions of 155 students, this year has seen an upward increment in the number of students admitted. It is my hope that this increment will soon be at an exponential rate.

It is because of this great need for tertiary education and especially in the Health and Allied Sciences that I call on the Government to set up an Endowment Fund without delay and to provide the first seed money to build the university. This will encourage other well meaning citizens both resident in Ghana and abroad to contribute towards the building of the university.

Our temporary facilities may not be the best, they however compare favourably with those of institutions our age. Rather than despair, what we have should goad you on and challenge you to crave for success. With determination, your aims are achievable even under very difficult situations.

Mindful of the challenges that face fresher's at this level of their education, Management of UHAS has found it prudent to accommodate all of you in the available hostels for the first year of your stay here. This is to enable you settle down quickly and approach your studies with all the seriousness you can muster. Bear in mind that studies at the tertiary level is quite different from what pertains at the second cycle level. It demands a lot of independent effort from you the student. The consequences of a student's inability to meet the faculty requirements can be unpalatable. The Requirements and Regulations for Bachelor's Degree of the University do not allow probation that is you do not load from one year to the other. You must pass your exams before you move on. Thus, out of the 155 students

enrolled for the 2012 -2013 academic year one (1) had to withdraw, 73 were referred in various subjects and had to rewrite those papers, unfortunately 18 failed again, in one paper or more and are repeating the class.

Faculty:

You are privileged to have very good caliber of faculty and staff are being engaged. A blend of very experienced and energetic young faculty engaged from Ghana and Europe that is ready to mentor you to greater heights. So far 23 additional lecturers have reported for duty (10 based in Hohoe) We expect an additional 20 before the end of the semester, as compared to 5 faculty last year academic year. Make maximum use of the opportunity to achieve your academic goals.

I also urge you to cultivate the spirit of discipline. No human endeavour attains the designed success without discipline. Sacrifice your human desires now for a better tomorrow. Do not allow the investments made in you by your parents and guardians go down the drain.

Before I resume my seat, let me remind you of the Matriculation Oath that you are about to swear. I encourage you to go by the tenets of the Oath and be guided by rules and regulations contained in your students handbook. In all your dealings with Faculty, staff and your own selves, be guided by the truth. Resort to dialogue instead of demonstrations when you have any grievances.

Once again, welcome to UHAS, Ho and Hohoe, enjoy the beautiful serene surroundings the towns provide and have a fruitful academic life while here.

God be with you.

Thank you.

Admission to programmes under the constituent Schools is made up as follows:

School	Programme			
		Male	Female	Total
Medicine	Physician Assistantship	27	10	37
Nursing and Midwifery	Nursing	56	24	80
	Midwifery	0	49	49
Allied Health Sciences	Dietetics	7	5	12
	Medical Lab. Sciences	23	6	29
	Speech and Language Therapy	5	1	6
Public Health	Nutrition	7	6	13
	Disease Control	26	4	30
	Environmental Health	6	2	8
	Nursing	22	7	29
	Information Sciences	15	2	17
	Mental Health	6	2	8
Total		200	118	318