

VICE CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH TO THE 2014/2015 MATRICULANTS ON SANDWICH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES, HO

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2015

The Pro-Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Deans and Directors, Faculty, Staff, 2014/2015 sandwich matriculants, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my honour and privilege to welcome you officially to UHAS and the first matriculation of sandwich students to the University.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Health and Allied Sciences (UHAS) is one of the youngest and newest public universities in Ghana. It was established by an Act of Parliament (Act 828 of December 2011). The main campus including the central administration is in Ho. A second campus is located in Hohoe.

It 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 schools and three institutes which are dedicated to health-related issues. It currently has five Schools in session;

- i. School of Basic and Biomedical Sciences,
- ii. School of Medicine,
- iii. School of Nursing and Midwifery
- iv. School of Allied Health Sciences and
- v. School of Public Health.

FACILITIES

The infrastructural facilities you see around may not be the most inspiring when compared to structures in the well established public universities. As you know, this is our humble beginning and the University authorities are taking steps to enhance the existing facilities as well as develop new structures at both campuses to provide a healthy teaching and learning environment. We are currently constructing the Administration Block and the School of Public Health at Hohoe campus. You will also be pleased to know that there is the China Aided Project at Sokode Lokoe, the permanent site of the University which is completed and will soon be handed over to the University. Facilities such as ICT, a functioning Library, staff and student accommodation are significantly available to enhance effective teaching and learning.

STUDENTS OF THE 2014/2015 ACADEMIC YEAR (SANDWICH GROUP)

To our newly admitted students, you are most welcome to the University of Health and Allied Sciences. The University is pleased to announce that this is the first time we are admitting students to the sandwich programmes which will be run mostly during the long vacations between the months of July and August. We are also proud to say that **Seventy nine (79)** students out of the **Eight four (84)** admitted students have enrolled for this year's programme. Last year a total of **One hundred and fourteen (114)** took part in the Access programme out

of which Eight four admissions were given. This year we hope to increase enrollment to give access to many more students to take part in our sandwich programme.

Due to the short duration, the programme can be strenuous and stressful on you as students. However, I encourage you not to be discouraged or downhearted. You cannot and should not give up, for at the end of the day it will build you up to become better professionals with deep sense of compassion and commitment to provide community services and to find solutions to our health problems. In addition, your chosen career is one that is guaranteed on the successful completion of your programmes. Health programmes are by no means the easiest in tertiary education. They require long hours of studies, commitment, dedication and critical scientific analysis. I therefore urge you to apply your time judiciously.

We have assembled some of the best, internationally renowned and experienced Professors, Lecturers and Administrators who have excelled in their respective fields of specialisation to provide you with the training you require and ensure that your stay in UHAS is an enjoyable and memorable one.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

Although UHAS is a very young university, we can proudly boast of some achievements over some older universities. This year, the Medical Laboratory Science Students' Association of UHAS participated in a quiz competition organised by the Federation of Ghana Medical Laboratory Science Students' Associations. Our students emerged winners over competitors from five other tertiary institutions; University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Cape Coast, College of Health, Kintampo and the Premier School of Medical Laboratory Technology. These students have made us proud by lifting the UHAS banner higher. We therefore assure you that you have chosen the right University for your study.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

The University can be defined as a place of experimenting in one's life. It is a place where you can afford to try and when you fail the first time you can be pardoned and given the opportunity to try again. At this stage, most students become aware of the fact that in life, there is not a single approach to tackling its challenges. Others may also cultivate the habit of not quitting when they do not succeed in the first instance but be motivated to try again. Therefore, I encourage you not to ever quit. Do not give up. When you fall, master the courage to rise up and try again.

The University is also a place where you build relationships which can be very long lasting so I urge you to come out of your closets and build such relationships with colleagues especially as you are all in the Health Sector.

I also encourage you to cultivate the spirit of discipline. No human endeavor attains the designed success without discipline. Sacrifice your human desires for a better tomorrow. Do not allow your investments to go down the drain.

Let me remind you of the Matriculation Oath that you have just sworn. I encourage you to go by the tenets of the Oath and be guided by the rules and regulations contained in your students' handbook.

Finally, our programmes are competitive and well sought after. We assure you that you are in the right place at the right time. I wish you a happy learning and a productive time on the campus of UHAS. May God bless us all. Thank you.