

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT MATRICULATION:
SATURDAY, 9th OCTOBER, 2021**

THE CHANCELLOR, WISCONSIN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, GHANA;

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS;

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL;

DEANS, HODs AND DIRECTORS;

SRC EXECUTIVES;

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS;

MATRICULANTS;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

INTRODUCTION

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 18th Matriculation Ceremony of Wisconsin International University College, Ghana.

Matriculants, let me begin by congratulating you on achieving this important milestone in your education. I am sure many of you have friends and former classmates who did not make it this

far. Therefore, although you are just at the start of your tertiary education, your being here is cause for celebration.

Choosing Wisconsin International University College as your institution of choice to mould you into global change agents is a clear attestation of the confidence reposed on us for our academic feats as manifested in the our numerous alumni impacting change both locally and across Africa.

Through our innovative practical training method we can confidently say we are on course to achieving our vision as the first choice private university in Ghana, with highly qualified and motivated staff.

This, we will endeavour to accomplish through providing quality teaching, learning, research, knowledge dissemination and collaboration with key stakeholders.

While you are here, it is our hope that you will acquaint yourselves with the values of the university which guides our paths towards reaching our mission of developing world-class human resources equipped with the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes to meet national development needs and global challenges. These are values of integrity, transparency

and accountability, teamwork, collaboration and partnership, excellence in service delivery and customer satisfaction.

Investing in your education at this level has come at great cost and sacrifice to many of you and your families with huge expectations at the end. On our part, we the management, faculty and staff of Wisconsin pledge to do all that is in our power to help you achieve your full potential.

We have procured state-of-the-art facilities for our Law, Nursing, Communications and IT students. Throughout the course of your study, we will also provide numerous opportunities for you to develop your skills, expand your networks and prepare you for the industry, career advancement and entrepreneurship.

Matriculants, the partnership we are entering into today requires that you also uphold your part of the bargain. Work hard, exercise integrity, and seize all opportunities available for your betterment.

Today, we are proud to matriculate **2719** students. This number is made up of **2033 Females** representing **(74.8%)** and 686 **Males** representing **(25.2%)**.

Your matriculation into Wisconsin today signifies your official induction as junior members of this academically stimulating and culturally diverse community, representing over 20 nationalities.

PROGRAMMES

I am proud to announce that teaching has since September 2019, commenced on our Kumasi campus, at Feyiase, on the Lake Bosomtwe Road, just 10 kilometers from KNUST.

The Wisconsin Kumasi campus will cater for students mainly from the northern part of Ghana as well as from neighboring countries. Matriculation for about 500 students will be held on the 16th October, 2021 at the Kumasi campus.

Wisconsin is continually introducing new programmes at certificate, diploma and degree levels to secure excellent career prospects for our students. We currently offer Undergraduate programmes in the areas of Law, Nursing, Midwifery, Community Health Nursing, Communication Studies, I.T. Economics with Management, Development Finance and Environmental Studies, Economics, and Business Studies, with various options. BSc Economics with Management and Development Finance have been running for the past two semesters. We have also just received accreditation to run a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood

Development and Primary Education. Admission is ongoing for this four year/three year degree that is expected to commence next semester in January 2022.

At Postgraduate level, we offer MBA, with various options; MSc in Environmental Sustainability and Management, MA in Adult Education, and a UK-accredited Pearson Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership. Due to increased demand, the graduate school has already started a 12months MA in International Relations and MSc Logistics and Supply Chain Management.

Classes have already begun at the Wisconsin Centre for Professional Studies for Institute of Chartered Accountant and the Chartered Institute of Taxation. The centre also runs professional certificate courses in security management, forensics and cybercrime.

As part of the University's Corporate Social Responsibility drive, the Centre will commence a free extra classes for Free SHS students on the double track system who will be taught by experts and examiners.

As you may be aware, increased competition in the job market has reduced the value of the first degree. In light of this, we at Wisconsin have made it easy for our students to earn more.

I am happy to announce to you that in order to ensure a sound progression, our local MBA fees have been slashed by about 35%.

Our programmes are fully accredited by the Ghana Tertiary Commission formerly the National Accreditation Board and affiliated to the leading public universities in the country – University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, University of Cape Coast and the University for Development Studies.

Student engagement plays a critical role in the academic equation. Tertiary institutions offer curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities.

Curricular activities comprise your lectures, tutorials and assessments. Apart from achieving good grades in your assignments and exams, your lecturers will require punctuality, good attendance, and timely submission of assignments, specific standards of grooming and comportment and participation in group work.

Academic success depends on discipline, good time management, dedication, critical thinking and problem-solving, communication and collaboration. These are qualities you will need here at university and beyond.

I wish to remind you that, at Wisconsin class attendance is non-negotiable. As captured in your students handbook, “if you absent from class over a period aggregating three working weeks, you would be made to withdraw from the university or be made to repeat the course”.

Make the library your friend. You are privileged to have at your disposal a state-of-the-art library with a collection of over 8,000 titles. Do not let this great opportunity to invest in yourself through reading widely go to waste.

Co-curricular activities are needed alongside your studies, although academic gain cannot be necessarily derived from them.

Student internships, workshops, public lectures, seminars and other activities will help you identify your aptitudes and preferences.

Career development sessions offered by the Career Services Centre which has been restructured with the appointment of a new head will continue to offer career services to students in preparing them for jobs and building professional network in addition to its new role of providing guidance and counselling services to students.

COVID 19

You have joined us at a very difficult time when COVID 19 continues to negatively ravish our lives. In spite of the impediment posed by the outbreak of the pandemic, we have managed to remain ahead of the pandemic with strict adherence to the COVID protocols and the use of new and innovative teaching methods. As part of measure to control the spread of the COVID 19 and keep you safe, we have chosen to continue with the hybrid mode of teaching which we piloted last year with the use of both the online and in-person approach of teaching.

Some few days back, we were fortunate to get the Ghana Health Service and the Ga East Municipal Health Directorate carry out vaccination exercise right here on campus and I hope and believe that by now all of you have taken advantage of the ongoing COVID 19 vaccination on our campus as a preventive measure against the pandemic. We are not out of the woods

yet and therefore it's important for all to continue exercise utmost caution. Continue to wear your facemask, wash your hands regularly and maintain social distance at all times.

WIUC AMBASSADORS

At Wisconsin, we have everything to transform you into quality material and graduate if only you explore the numerous opportunities at your disposal. Our students who make the best of these opportunities continue to excel in various engagements both on and off campus. I believe most of you by now are aware of the performance of our students in the recently held National Business Challenge where Wisconsin beat one of our mentor institutions, University of Ghana Business School and other prominent institutions, coming second only to University of Cape Coast. This is an indication of the quality of teaching and mentoring we offer.

Allow me to use this opportunity to make special mention to three of our students who are and continue to be worthy ambassadors of our University.

First is Miss Belinda Elikplim Chamenyi a recent first class graduate from the Wisconsin Law Faculty who has chaired various international conferences including the World Youth Summit held at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa and recently elected President of the General Assembly of the International Youth Diplomacy Conference.

Stephen Kwesi Acquah, a level 400 Communications Studies student pitched himself against students from prominent universities to be elected the President of the Ghana Union of Professional Students. Same can also be said of Oscar Jonas Tei Mensah, a recent first class graduate at the Law Faculty who has also just gained admission into the Ghana law school against all odds was elected President of the Ghana union of law students while a student here. It is also instructive to note that Oscar Jonas Tei Mensah is only one of several Wisconsin law graduates to make it into the Ghana Law School with the recent call to the Bar this year.

And for you here, let this inspire you. I entreat you, therefore, to engage your intelligence, engage in activities that would build your skills.

The **mid-week chapel service** is intended to instil moral and ethical values in our students and to encourage them to establish a deeper relationship with God their Creator. Other mainstream religions may also meet, with the approval of the Registrar.

Extra-curricular activities equip you with soft skills such as communication, leadership, work ethic and teamwork. They also give you an opportunity to shape the environment in which you live. Volunteer to serve on the SRC and its committees and in the various clubs and associations. Participate in student programmes and groom yourself to become an effective citizen of your nation.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, there is no known magic formula for success. What we do know is that those who have achieved true success have consistently displayed a number of characteristics: Integrity, Transparency and accountability, Teamwork, Excellence in service delivery, customer satisfaction. These characteristics represent our core values; values we believe in and uphold.

Matriculants, you would do well to embrace and embody these values if success is to be within your reach.

I sincerely acknowledge the trust your honourable parents have reposed in us by enrolling you here at Wisconsin. On behalf of the Shareholders, Management, Faculty and staff of this great Institution, I want to assure you that your investment will not be in vain.

We look forward, with the help of God, to graduating every student here today, in the very near future.

Once again, my heartiest congratulations to you on this day that means so much to you; and may God bless us all.