

**FIRST REPORT ON GRADUATES OF METHODIST UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE GHANA (MUCG) IN THE ACCRA METROPOLIS: A TRACER STUDY**

BY

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1.0 INTRODUCTION:

Alumni Associations play a crucial role in the lives of several universities all over the world. These alumni often help universities financially in addition to helping provide work for graduates from their alma maters. Alumni can also be helpful in getting students to undertake practical attachment while they are in school. These and other reasons are among those that motivated MUCG to follow up on its graduates.

Additionally, tracer studies help institutions to find out how their graduates are placed and are performing and also whether the institutions programmes are useful and whether they need to be modified and in what direction.

2.0 METHODOLOGY OF THE TRACER STUDY:

The study focused on graduates who completed their degree studies at MUCG from 2003 through to 2007. A list of these groups of graduates with their contact addresses were obtained from the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs. Graduates who work in the Accra Metropolis were our main target. Based on this list, a convenience sampling procedure was used. The choice of this non-probability sampling was made because of the sole concern for its ease of access and speed in obtaining information inexpensively.

Majority of our selected graduates were contacted by telephone. After accepting to participate in the study, an interviewer was sent to administer the questionnaire. Other alumni were contacted by means of personal network (word of mouth) and their current addresses were taken for subsequent tracer studies.

For the first phase of the study, 32 alumni readily responded to our set of questions which sought to address the objectives of the study. This number represents 3.30% of our population of 969 graduates of MUCG as at the end of the fifth congregation in 2008. The responses collected were coded, grouped and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 13.0).

3.0 DATA ANALYSIS:

The data obtained from our graduates were examined from two different perspectives:

1. The category of students who had some level of working experience before gaining admission to the college.
2. Those without any work experience before entering the college.

The initial part of the analysis looks at the personal details such as age, gender and work experience for the two categories of graduates. The next part looks at their academic details such as class obtained, course studied and year of congregation. The final part focuses on their employment details, which seek to find out their incomes, employment status, and the impact of the course studied at school on their current jobs.

4.0 TRACER OUTCOME (RESULTS):

Thirty-two graduates were contacted and readily gave out responses. Nine (9) of these graduates, representing 28.1%, had no work experience at the time they were admitted to MUCG. About 68.8% had some level of working experience before their admission to the college. Only one person failed to respond. The table (1.0) below shows the distribution of work experience.

Table 1.0 Distribution of Work Experience as at Admission Time

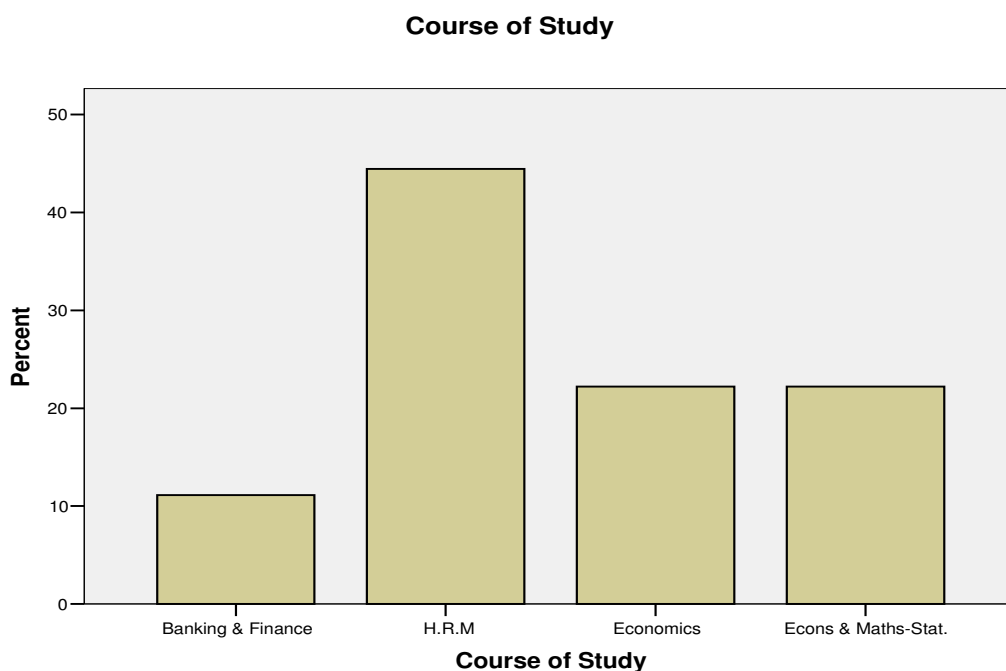
| Details | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Experience | 22 | 68.8 | 71.0 |
| No experience | 9 | 28.1 | 29.0 |
| Total | 31 | 96.9 | 100.0 |
| No Response | 1 | 3.1 | |
| Total | 32 | 100.0 | |

5.0 GRADUATES WHO HAD NO WORK EXPERIENCE

Nine of these graduates were traced, and all of them were below 30 years of age as at the time of the study. This group comprises 22.2% female and 77.8% male. Forty-four percent had their congregation in 2007 while 22.2% and 11.1% had it in 2006 and 2008 respectively. The majority of this group of graduates studied Human Resource Management (HRM) while in college. Twenty-two percent each studied Economics and Economics & Mathematics-Statistics. The rest studied Banking & Finance. The bar chart below shows the distribution of courses studied by this group of graduates.

FIG. 1

A bar chart showing courses studied by graduates who had no work experience before being admitted to MUCG.



Furthermore 5 out of the 9 graduates completed with a second class upper degree. The following table reveals percentages of the classes obtained by our graduates who completed without prior work experience.

Table 2. Degree Class Obtained

| Details | Work Experience | | No Work Experience | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| | Frequency | Percent | Frequency | Percent |
| 1 st Class | 3 | 13.6 | 1 | 11.1 |
| 2 nd Class Upper | 11 | 50.0 | 5 | 55.6 |
| 2 nd Class Lower | 8 | 36.4 | 3 | 33.3 |
| Total | 22 | 100 | 9 | 100 |

Employment Details

From the tracer study, 55.6% of this category of graduates had a regular job in the year 2007, a year after graduation. About 22.2% obtained a regular job in 2006, which is one year after the year they completed. These suggest that even without certificates our graduates were able to secure jobs right after their national service. One of the 2005 graduates obtained a job in 2007. That is, two years later. Another one of the nine graduates had a job in the year 2008, that is, it took two years to get a job.

Table 5 Years after Graduation and Obtaining Regular Job

| Year (s) | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | 7 | 77.7 |
| 2 | 2 | 22.3 |
| Total | 9 | 100 |

5.1 SALARIES

Six out of nine graduates gave us an idea of their salary range. Responses on income levels have always been a problem especially in Ghana. But at least 66.67% of our graduates responded to their salary range on their new jobs. The tracer study further revealed that 66.67% of our graduates without any work experience earn at most GH¢500.00 per month and 33.33% earn between GH¢500.00 and GH¢1,000.00 per month.

It is no wonder that 100% of this group of graduates indicated that the courses they studied in MUCG have been very beneficial to them not only in their new work environment but any where they find themselves. In addition, 66.7% indicated that they had no regret in studying the course they did, and if given the opportunity they will not change the course they studied. Only 22.2% expressed the contrary view.

6.0 GRADUATES WHO WERE ADMITTED WITH SOME LEVEL OF WORK EXPERIENCE

As indicated earlier, 68.8% of the graduates who responded to the tracer study had some work experience. Of this group, 55.6% falls within the age bracket of 30 to 39 years. Five of them, representing 27.8%, fall within 40 to 49 years. Out of the 22 graduates traced within this group, 45.5% were female and 54.5% were male. The study further revealed that on the average, 3 students each were admitted in the year 2000 through to 2005. Majority of this group of graduates were admitted to level 200, about 63.6%, with a small number being admitted to level 300, representing 9.1%. About 45.45% of these graduates had their congregation in the year 2007 and 18.18% each had it in 2005 and 2008. In each of the years 2004 and 2006, 4.55% of the group graduated.

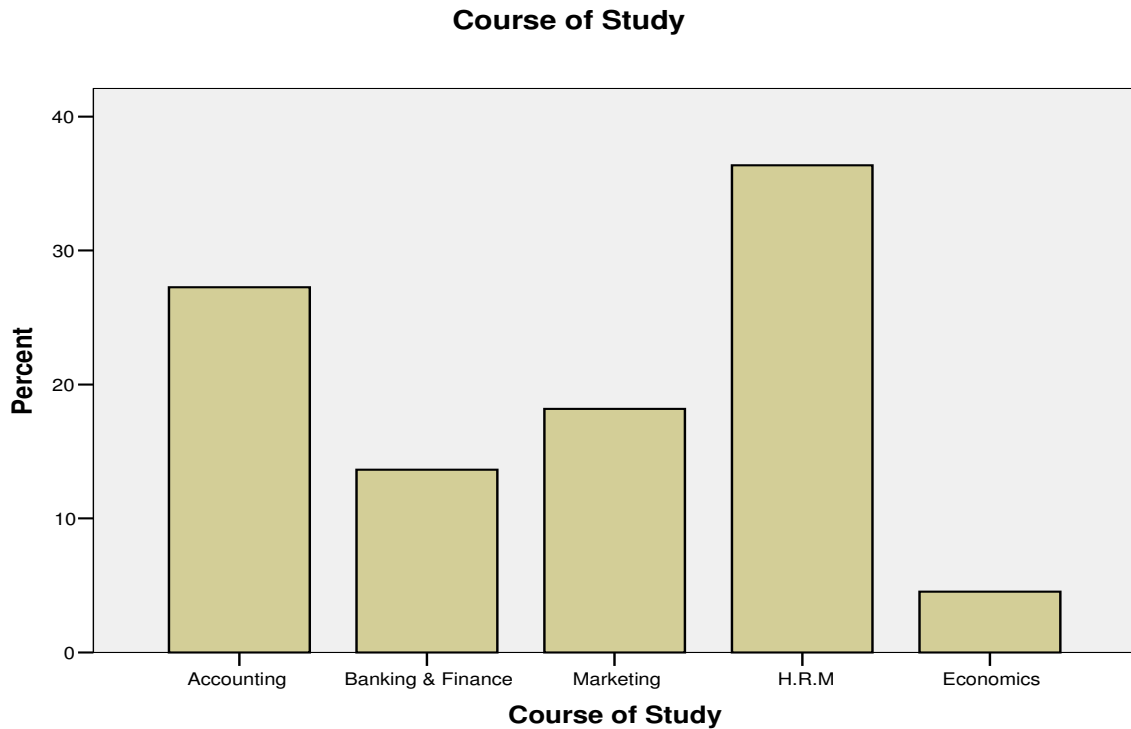
Table 6Date of Congregation

| Year of Congregation | Frequency | Percent | valid Percent |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 2004 | 1 | 4.55 | 5 |
| 2005 | 4 | 18.18 | 20 |
| 2006 | 1 | 4.55 | 5 |
| 2007 | 10 | 45.45 | 50 |
| 2008 | 4 | 18.18 | 20 |
| total | 20 | 90.91 | 100 |
| Missing System | 2 | 9.09 | |
| total | 22 | 100.00 | |

All the 22 graduates responded to the courses they studied in college; 36.4% studied Human Resource Management, 27.3% studied Accounting, 18.2% and 13.6% studied Marketing and Banking & Finance respectively. Only 4.5% studied Economics.

FIG 2.

A bar chat showing courses studied by graduates who had prior work experience before being admitted to MUCG.



6.1 CLASS OF DEGREE & WORK EXPERIENCE

Furthermore, 50% of our mature students graduated with second class upper degree, 36.4% and 13.6% graduated with second class lower and first class degrees respectively. It is important to note that these groups of graduates were often considered for admission based partly on the number of years of working experience. Of the 18 graduates who responded, 50.0% had between 5 to 10 years working experience. The table below (7) gives a view of number of years our graduates worked before gaining admission to MUCG. In addition to working experience, these students took and passed examinations in English, Mathematics and Current affairs.

Table 7 Years of work before Admission

| DETAILS | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | Below 5 years | 8 | 36.4 | 44.4 |
| | 5 to 10 years | 9 | 40.9 | 50.0 |
| | 11 years and above | 1 | 4.5 | 5.6 |
| | Total | 18 | 81.8 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 4 | 18.2 | |
| Total | | 22 | 100.0 | |

6.2 SALARIES

Regarding incomes, 50% earned below GH¢200.00 before admission, 25% each took home between GH¢200.00 and GH¢499.00 and between GH¢500.00 and GH¢799.00 before admission. This information was obtained from 54.5% of the graduates.

After completion of their degree programmes, 10 out of 19 graduates confirmed that they have been upgraded. Unfortunately, only 6 graduates responded to the level of their new salary after upgrading. Of this, 50% earn between GH¢500.00 and GH¢1,000.00 and another 50% earn GH¢500.00. About 94.1% of 17 graduates were of the view that the course they studied at MUCG has been beneficial to them while 5.9% expressed otherwise. Majority of them expressed no regret in studying the programme they did.

7.0 MAJOR FINDINGS FROM THE TRACER STUDY

| No. | Graduates without work Experience before admission | Graduates with work Experience before admission |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | 9 graduates were traced (28.1%) | 22 graduates were traced (68.8%) |
| 2. | All are below 30 years | Majority falls within 30 to 39 years (55.6%) |
| 3. | Majority were male (77.8%) | Gender distribution is quite balanced |
| 4. | Were admitted to level 100 | Majority were admitted to level 200 (73.7%) |
| 5. | 57.1% had their congregation in 2007 | 47.6% had their congregation in 2007 |
| 6. | Majority studied HRM (44.4%) | Majority studied HRM (36.4%) |
| 7. | 55.6% had regular job in 2007 | Majority were upgraded after completing (52.6%) |
| 8. | Majority earn below GH¢500.00 a month (44.4%) | Majority earn between GH¢500.00 and GH¢1,000.00 a month (50%) |

8.0 LIMITATIONS OF THE TRACER STUDY

It was difficult to get a good sample frame. This was due to the inadequate records on alumni of MUCG, making tracing sometimes impossible.

9.0 CONCLUSION

The sample size of the graduates who had not worked before coming to MUCG was small (9). Thus any conclusions are very tentative. A significant number, seven (78%) got a job a year after graduation. That is, right after their national service. Another two (22%) got a job two years after graduation.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- The list of former students should be developed into a database. This could even serve as a sample frame from which a sample can be taken for subsequent study.
- The questionnaire design should be looked at again since some respondents failed to answer certain questions, particularly on income.
- Enough resources should be made available to enable researchers trace and talk to the respondents on the essence of the tracer study.
- The question on salary was not answered by many respondents. It has been decided that in the next study that questions will be posed in terms of range of salary earned.
- Efforts should be made to get students of MUCG obtain job attachments during the vacations, especially those without work experience.

ANNEX

In the annex all tables derived from the tracer study are listed.

Table 1 Distribution of Work Experience as at Admission Time

| Details | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| Experience | 22 | 68.8 | 71.0 |
| No experience | 9 | 28.1 | 29.0 |
| Total | 31 | 96.9 | 100.0 |
| No Response | 1 | 3.1 | |
| Total | 32 | 100.0 | |

A. Graduates without Work Experience:

Table 2 Ages

| | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Valid Below 30 years | 9 | 100.0 |

Table 3 Sex

| | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|---------|
| Valid Female | 2 | 22.2 |
| Male | 7 | 77.8 |
| Total | 9 | 100.0 |

Table 4 Year of Admission

| | Frequency | Percent |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| Valid 2000 | 1 | 11.1 |
| 2001 | 2 | 22.2 |
| 2002 | 5 | 55.6 |
| 2005 | 1 | 11.1 |
| Total | 9 | 100.0 |

Table 5 Level of Admission

| | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Valid 100 | 9 | 100.0 |

Table 6 Date of Completion

| | | Frequency | Percent |
|-------|-------|-----------|---------|
| Valid | 2004 | 1 | 11.1 |
| | 2005 | 3 | 33.3 |
| | 2006 | 5 | 55.6 |
| | Total | 9 | 100.0 |

Table 7 Date of Congregation

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | 2006 | 2 | 22.2 | 28.6 |
| | 2007 | 4 | 44.4 | 57.1 |
| | 2008 | 1 | 11.1 | 14.3 |
| | Total | 7 | 77.8 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 2 | 22.2 | |
| Total | | 9 | 100.0 | |

Table 8 Course of Study

| | Frequency | Percent |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Valid Banking & Finance | 1 | 11.1 |
| H.R.M | 4 | 44.4 |
| Economics | 2 | 22.2 |
| Econs & Maths-Stat. | 2 | 22.2 |
| Total | 9 | 100.0 |

Table 9 Class Obtained

| | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| Valid 1st Class | 1 | 11.1 |
| 2nd Class Upper | 5 | 55.6 |
| 2nd Class Lower | 3 | 33.3 |
| Total | 9 | 100.0 |

Table 10 Course Beneficial?

| | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Valid Yes | 9 | 100.0 |

Table 11 Year of obtaining regular job

| | Frequency | Percent |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| Valid 2005 | 1 | 11.1 |
| 2006 | 2 | 22.2 |
| 2007 | 5 | 55.6 |
| 2008 | 1 | 11.1 |
| Total | 9 | 100.0 |

Table 12 Salary on new Job

| | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Valid Below Gh¢ 500 | 4 | 44.4 |
| 500 to Gh¢1000 | 2 | 22.2 |
| Total | 6 | 66.7 |
| Missing System | 3 | 33.3 |
| Total | 9 | 100.0 |

Table 13 Change course?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | No | 6 | 66.7 | 75.0 |
| | Yes | 2 | 22.2 | 25.0 |
| | Total | 8 | 88.9 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 1 | 11.1 | |
| Total | | 9 | 100.0 | |

B. Graduates with Work Experience:

Table 14 Ages

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | Below 30 years | 1 | 4.5 | 5.6 |
| | 30 to 39 years | 10 | 45.5 | 55.6 |
| | 40 to 49 years | 5 | 22.7 | 27.8 |
| | 50 years and above | 2 | 9.1 | 11.1 |
| | Total | 18 | 81.8 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 4 | 18.2 | |
| Total | | 22 | 100.0 | |

Table 15 Sex

| | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|---------|
| Valid Female | 10 | 45.5 |
| Male | 12 | 54.5 |
| Total | 22 | 100.0 |

Table 16 Year of Admission

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid 2000 | 3 | 13.6 | 14.3 |
| 2001 | 3 | 13.6 | 14.3 |
| 2002 | 5 | 22.7 | 23.8 |
| 2003 | 1 | 4.5 | 4.8 |
| 2004 | 5 | 22.7 | 23.8 |
| 2005 | 4 | 18.2 | 19.0 |
| Total | 21 | 95.5 | 100.0 |
| Missing System | 1 | 4.5 | |
| Total | 22 | 100.0 | |

Table 17 Level of Admission

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | 100 | 3 | 13.6 | 15.8 |
| | 200 | 14 | 63.6 | 73.7 |
| | 300 | 2 | 9.1 | 10.5 |
| | Total | 19 | 86.4 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 3 | 13.6 | |
| Total | | 22 | 100.0 | |

Table 18 Date of Completion

| | | Frequency | Percent |
|-------|-------|-----------|---------|
| Valid | 2003 | 1 | 4.5 |
| | 2004 | 5 | 22.7 |
| | 2005 | 1 | 4.5 |
| | 2006 | 7 | 31.8 |
| | 2007 | 8 | 36.4 |
| | Total | 22 | 100.0 |

Table 19 Date of Congregation

| Year of Congregation | Frequency | Percent | valid Percent |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 2004 | 1 | 4.55 | 5 |
| 2005 | 4 | 18.18 | 20 |
| 2006 | 1 | 4.55 | 5 |
| 2007 | 10 | 45.45 | 50 |
| 2008 | 4 | 18.18 | 20 |
| total | 20 | 90.91 | 100 |
| Missing System | 2 | 9.09 | |
| total | 22 | 100.00 | |

Table 20 Course of Study

| | Frequency | Percent |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Valid Accounting | 6 | 27.3 |
| Banking & Finance | 3 | 13.6 |
| Marketing | 4 | 18.2 |
| H.R.M | 8 | 36.4 |
| Economics | 1 | 4.5 |
| Total | 22 | 100.0 |

Table 21 Class Obtained

| | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| Valid 1st Class | 3 | 13.6 |
| 2nd Class Upper | 11 | 50.0 |
| 2nd Class Lower | 8 | 36.4 |
| Total | 22 | 100.0 |

Table 22 Salary before Admission

| | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid Below Gh¢ 200 | 6 | 27.3 | 50.0 |
| 200 to Gh¢ 499 | 3 | 13.6 | 25.0 |
| 500 to Gh¢ 799 | 3 | 13.6 | 25.0 |
| Total | 12 | 54.5 | 100.0 |
| Missing System | 10 | 45.5 | |
| Total | 22 | 100.0 | |

Table 23 Years of work before Admission

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------|--------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | Below 5 years | 8 | 36.4 | 44.4 |
| | 5 to 10 years | 9 | 40.9 | 50.0 |
| | 11 years and above | 1 | 4.5 | 5.6 |
| | Total | 18 | 81.8 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 4 | 18.2 | |
| Total | | 22 | 100.0 | |

Table 24 Upgraded after Completion?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | NO | 9 | 40.9 | 47.4 |
| | Yes | 10 | 45.5 | 52.6 |
| | Total | 19 | 86.4 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 3 | 13.6 | |
| Total | | 22 | 100.0 | |

Table 25 Salary after Upgrading

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------|-----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | Below Gh¢ 500 | 3 | 13.6 | 50.0 |
| | 500 to Gh¢ 1000 | 3 | 13.6 | 50.0 |
| | Total | 6 | 27.3 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 16 | 72.7 | |
| Total | | 22 | 100.0 | |

Table 26 Course Beneficial?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | No | 1 | 4.5 | 5.9 |
| | Yes | 16 | 72.7 | 94.1 |
| | Total | 17 | 77.3 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 5 | 22.7 | |
| Total | | 22 | 100.0 | |

Table 27 Salary on new Job

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------|-----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | Below Gh¢ 500 | 1 | 4.5 | 50.0 |
| | 500 to Gh¢ 1000 | 1 | 4.5 | 50.0 |
| | Total | 2 | 9.1 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 20 | 90.9 | |
| Total | | 22 | 100.0 | |

Table 28 Change course?

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent |
|---------|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| Valid | No | 13 | 59.1 | 92.9 |
| | Yes | 1 | 4.5 | 7.1 |
| | Total | 14 | 63.6 | 100.0 |
| Missing | System | 8 | 36.4 | |
| Total | | 22 | 100.0 | |

Table 29 Year of congregation for the combined sets of graduates of MUCG

| Year of Congregation | Frequency | Percent | valid Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|
| 2004 | 1 | 3.13 | 3.70 |
| 2005 | 4 | 12.50 | 14.81 |
| 2006 | 3 | 9.38 | 11.11 |
| 2007 | 14 | 43.75 | 51.85 |
| 2008 | 5 | 15.63 | 18.52 |
| total | 27 | 84.38 | 100.00 |
| Missing System | 5 | 15.63 | |
| total | 32 | 100.00 | |

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