

"I chose to attend Marshall University because of the smaller class size, coupled with the success stories I read on the internet from both old and current students," said Josephine Abena Nipaa Akyempong, a native of Nsuta Mampong in the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

Pursuing her Master's of Business Administration in management, Josephine will graduate in May of 2021 and intends to pursue her PhD in supply chain management. Her favorite thing about Marshall is it has "willing, able and compassionate professors that teach students to be successful in a challenging environment." She loves the beautiful campus and says the "green nature" reminds her of her hometown, making her feel as if she were still home on her grandfather's farm.

In March of 2020 when the novel Coronavirus forced Marshall to a virtual learning environment, Josephine was facing a difficult time. The borders were closed and she was required to stay in Huntington.

"Emergency Student Funds and the Marshall Food Pantry assisted me in this difficult moment. Being an international student in a foreign land with no family ties in the United States hasn't been an easy journey, but my stay was possible because of donor assistance," Josephine said.

Josephine's father has funded her education and his business has temporarily closed down because of this pandemic. Currently, her father, who contracted COVID-19, is in critical condition, in isolation and under strict medical treatment. She hopes for the best with his health.

"My father's condition has tremendously affected my upkeep and studies-- emotionally, psychologically and financially. I wholeheartedly acknowledge that the Student Emergency Funds have helped me pay for my rent, books and internet that I needed for summer school and provided me food," said Josephine, who lost her campus job when everything closed down. As an international student visiting on a student visa, she is not permitted to work off campus.



Fun Facts

Name: Josephine Abena Nipaa Akyempong

Class of 2021

Hometown: Nsuta Mampong in the Ashanti Region of Ghana

Major: Master's of Business Administration in management

Favorite color: Purple

Textbooks or eBooks: I like both textbooks and eBooks

Most thankful for: The opportunity to study my MBA in management at Marshall. I hope to share this experience with others in the future.

Thankful for the resources Marshall provided that allowed students to easily transition to virtual learning, Josephine believes they helped her continue to learn efficiently for her exams. She hopes to be able to move forward with her studies this fall, but her educational journey is uncertain due to her father's health and current ability to provide financial assistance.

“The destiny of the younger generation lies in the hands of current, resourceful and older generations, and with their relentless anchor the current generation realizes their dreams and ambitions in life. We are in a difficult and challenging moment,” said Josephine. “This is not what I expected to happen, but I have no control over it. I am thankful to Marshall for the opportunities they have given me and hope to continue pursuing my dream.”