

CB Ph.D. Student Teaching Excellence Award 2023 – Student sharing by Emmanuel Oforu – *Shaped by Passion and Experience*



Hi everyone. My name is Emmanuel Oforu, and I am currently a fourth-year Ph.D. student in accountancy. I have been tutoring the Introduction to Financial Accounting (CB2100) course for two years. I am grateful to the College of Business for recognizing my teaching efforts by giving me the 2023/2024 Ph.D. Student Teaching Excellence Award.

My teaching abilities are shaped by my innate passion for teaching and my past experiences as a student. I discovered my passion for teaching early in my academic career, and I have made considerable efforts to develop my teaching skills.

As a student, I greatly appreciated teachers who made learning enjoyable and meaningful. This has motivated me to always go above and beyond to support my own students' growth and interests. My experiences on both sides of the classroom – as an enthusiastic learner and a developing educator – define my teaching philosophy and approach in the classroom.

I employ three overarching teaching philosophies: (i) I maintain a low power distance with my students to make it easy for them to approach me with their challenges; (ii) I make the course practical by incorporating real-world examples or citing basic and non-technical examples; and (iii) I control the pace of the course to ensure that all students benefit, irrespective of whether they have foreknowledge of the course content. In addition, approximately three weeks after the beginning of the course, I ask the students to write down on a piece of paper aspects of the course that they think need to be improved. The students then hand in these pieces of paper, and their thoughts serve as valuable feedback that helps me to improve my teaching in the subsequent weeks. Finally, I allow adequate time to respond to students' questions via email, and I organize extra online tutorials based on students' requests.

I am grateful for the teaching experiences and recognition I have received from the Department of Accountancy and the College of Business, as this motivates me to excel in teaching.