



United States Student Achievers Program (USAP) 2008 Application Form

Susan Knowles, Educational Advisor
United States Consulate General
30th Floor Old Mutual Building
303 West Street, Durban 4001
Phone: 031 305 7600 ext. 3135 Fax: 031 305 7693
usap_durban@usapglobal.org

Dear Applicant:

There are many determined and talented economically-disadvantaged students in South Africa who lack financial resources and access to information to better their educational future. The EducationUSA Advising office of the United States Consulate General in Durban has asked high schools to help identify **students who will write Senior Certificate Exams December 2008** with **exceptional** academic ability who are highly motivated and of severely low-income backgrounds to apply to join the United States Student Achievers Program (USAP).

USAP's mission is to assist highly-talented and determined severely economically-disadvantaged grade twelve students to negotiate and finance the admissions process for colleges and universities in the United States with the aim of producing highly-skilled and widely-educated leaders for tomorrow's South Africa. USAP works closely with students through regularly scheduled meetings and seminars to assist them throughout the application process to apply for admission and scholarships from colleges and universities in the United States. USAP finances the costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations (SAT) and cost of travel to USAP meetings and SAT exams. We expect an equal commitment from students to put their energy and time into the program.

Although we do not limit the program geographically, students **MUST** be able to reach our offices in Durban on a monthly basis during the 2008 school year, throughout school holidays, and after final exams for full participation. Grade 12 students will work with the EducationUSA Advisor during 2008 and part of 2009 to try to secure places and financial assistance to begin study in the US in August 2009, but **ENTRANCE INTO THIS PROGRAM IS NO GUARANTEE OF A SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES.** That decision is made by universities to which you apply.

To apply to USAP, you must currently be a highly-determined and hardworking student **who will write FINAL MATRIC EXAMS IN 2008.** To be eligible for

consideration, you must have a **VERY** strong academic record (78% aggregate or better), be active in co-curricular/community activities and show **well demonstrated financial need**. Please complete this application form and return it together with the required documents by post, fax, or in person no later than **Friday, 15 February 2008**. Answers are expected to be truthful and accurate. Deception will lead to dismissal from the USAP program.

Photocopies of this form are acceptable. We will reply to successful students and their schools by the last week in February and will invite finalists for interviews. Please complete this application form in full, providing us with as much information as possible about yourself, your dreams, ambitions, your family background and your academic and co-curricular record. Read directions carefully: It is essential that you attach to your application the following documents:

- 1) A photocopy of your **final** reports from grade 9, grade 10, and **all** grade 11 reports stamped by your current school.
- 2) A letter of recommendation attesting to your character, talent and skills by a teacher, headmaster, pastor or community leader who knows you well.
- 3) A statement declaring your parents'/guardians' monthly income
- 4) Write **two** essays, the compulsory one (Group A) and one from Group B, each of at least one A4 page:

Group A (compulsory)

Colleges and Universities in the United States will want to get to know you as a person, both in and out of the classroom. Use this essay as an opportunity to let us get to know you, how you think and what's important to you. As we want to get to know you and not look for the most dramatic tale, it is essential that all experiences related in these essays are a **true** and accurate depiction of your life.

Write an essay giving examples of the following three qualities and how it attests to your life:

Strong/high motivation levels; your ability to take the initiative and lead; your creative problem-solving abilities.

Group B –

No matter whether you have studied science, commercial or arts subjects up to now, if you attend college or university in the US, you will be exposed to and will take a wide variety of subjects from the humanities, social sciences, and pure sciences. With this liberal arts education in mind, please answer any **one** of the following questions to demonstrate your intellectual strengths:

B1. Discontent often leads to action. Use evidence from your studies, your knowledge of current affairs and your experience to write a paper agreeing or disagreeing with this statement.

B2. If you were able to have dinner with a historical figure from any part of the world and any historical time period, who would you choose and why? What lessons can the present day world learn from that person?

B3. What is the greatest scientific discovery so far in the history of humankind? Describe its positive and potentially negative impact to justify your choice. Now if you could make one scientific discovery in your life, what discovery would you want to make and why?

Personal Information:

- Full name:

- What do you prefer to be called?

- Home address where you reside when not at school:

- Postal Address

- Contact telephone(s) (**required**): Email address, if any:

- Birthdate: Gender:

- Mother's current occupation and workplace (Be specific, even if self-employed):

- Father's current occupation and workplace (Be specific, even if self-employed):

- If parents are deceased, state name, relationship, occupation and workplace of your guardian:

- Number of siblings and their ages:

- Number of dependent people currently living with and supported by your parents/guardians and their relationships to you:

- Do your parents or guardians own any vehicle(s)? If so, what make and year?

- Does your family employ any domestic help?

- Religion, if any:

- Amount of your school fees, (inclusive of boarding fees, if applicable,) per year
- Who currently pays your school fees? Are you on any bursary/scholarship? If so, how much does the bursary cover?

-3-

If you are from outside the Durban area, do you have someone you can stay with near Durban for short times if necessary?

Please state that person's name, relationship to you, physical address and contact telephone number:

- If accepted, cost of transport to the Advising Center can be reimbursed to you. Approximately how much will round-trip transport to Durban cost?

Academic and School Information:

- School Name and Mailing Address:
- School telephone number:
- Principal/Headmaster/Headmistress' Name:
- Does your school have a Guidance/Career Counselor? If yes, his/her name:
- If no, what is your Life Orientation Teacher's name:
- Matric Subjects you are taking. Please circle your strongest subject:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.

7.

- Are you taking English First Language at school? Will you write the exam?
- Are you taking the GDE (government) or IEB exams?

-4-

- List below all schools you have attended and which grades you did at each school:

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Grades Completed</u>
---------------	-----------------	-------------------------

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

- List the extra-curricular clubs, sports and activities that you participate in at high school and in your community and/or church. Circle the **one** to which you devote the most time and energy.

- Please describe which one of these activities has the most meaning for you and why.

- Do/did you hold any leadership positions at school? Please list them here and in which grades you held these positions (i.e. class monitor, prefect, Head girl/boy, President of a Club, Captain of a team, Tutor, etc)

PRIMARY SCHOOL:

HIGH SCHOOL:

COMMUNITY/OTHER:

-5-

- List all prizes, honors or awards you have received during high school.

- Do you have any chores or duties that you have to fulfill in your home after school? Describe in detail what you do and how often you do it.

Short Answer Questions:

Feel free to use the back of this sheet or additional paper if the space is insufficient.

- What do you hope to study at university? What is your planned career and why? Feel free to mention more than one potential field of study and career path. US education offers many new opportunities, so think widely – beyond medicine, pharmacy, engineering, actuarial science, business and accounting!

- Outside of your planned career path, name several things you would like to learn just for the pure joy of learning – what do you have a burning desire to know more about?

- What else should we know about your background, your family and your financial condition? Feel free to use an extra sheet of paper if this space is too small.

-6-

- Selection for USAP is very competitive. Why should we select you over other highly-qualified South African students? What makes you unique?

- Dream a little. What impact do you want to make on the future of South Africa? Assuming that you will return home after completing your studies in the USA, how will you contribute positively to your home community and country?

- Although USAP started in Zimbabwe, it now works with students in 15 countries. What would you want to share with other international USAP students about your home culture and country?

- What do you feel you could give back to the USAP program?

Thank you for applying for the USAP program. We look forward to reviewing your application!

USAP 2008 APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2008