



the US student
ACHIEVERS
p r o g r a m

**U S Consulate General Johannesburg
Education USA Advising**

Application Form 2008

(US College intake 2009)



INTRODUCTION

There are many talented and motivated students in South Africa who would like to pursue studies in the United States but lack financial resources and access to information to better their educational future. The EducationUSA Advising office of the United States Consulate General in Johannesburg runs a program called the United States Achievers Program (USAP) which is aimed at helping these students realize their dreams. The program is suited for **grade twelve students** with **Exceptional Academic Ability**, who are also **Highly Motivated** and of **Low-Income Backgrounds** and who have a keen desire to pursue a Bachelors degree in the United States.

The **USAP** mission is to assist highly-talented and determined, economically-disadvantaged grade eleven 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 secure admission and scholarships for colleges and universities in the United States.

USAP finances the costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations and provides free membership to the US Educational Advising Center for its participants. **In return, USAP expects an equal commitment of students to give of their energy and time to the program and to their communities.**

Although we do not limit the program geographically, students **MUST** be able to reach our offices in Johannesburg on a regular basis during the 2008 school year, throughout school holidays, and after final exams for full participation. Grade 12 students will work with our education advising staff during 2008 and part of 2009 to try to secure places and financial assistance to begin study in the US in August 2009.

ENTRANCE INTO THIS PROGRAM IS NO GUARANTEE OF A SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES.

To apply to **USAP**, you must currently be a highly-determined and hardworking **GRADE TWELVE** student who will write **FINAL MATRIC EXAMS IN 2008**. To be eligible for consideration, you must have a **VERY** strong academic record and be ranked in the top ten in your grade, be active in co-curricular and community activities and show well demonstrated financial need. Please complete this application form and return it together by post or in person with the required documents listed at the end no later than **Friday, 21ST MARCH 2008**

Mailing Address:

*Education Adviser
U.S. Consulate
P O Box 1762
Houghton
2041
Johannesburg*

Physical Address for Hand Delivery:

Education Adviser
American Culture and Information Center
35 Pritchard Street, Cnr Harrison Street
1066 Building, 3rd Floor
Johannesburg City Center

Tel: (011) 838 2231 X 127 (Tue-Thu 11:00-13:00 & 14:00-16:00);

Fax: (011) 838 3920;

Email usap_joburg@usapglobal.org

Photocopies of this form are acceptable. We will reply to successful students, through their schools or personally, the first week of school in January 2008 and may 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.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

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 ten and all your term reports from grade 11, 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) Write **two** essays: the compulsory essay in 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 – Choose one only

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 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?

For those from outside Gauteng only:

If you are from outside Gauteng, do you have someone you can stay with in Gauteng during the holidays and after your grade 12 exams?

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

- If accepted, how will you finance transport to come to the Johannesburg Advising Center, at least monthly during the school term for USAP meetings?

Academic and School Information:

- School Name and Mailing Address:

- School telephone number:

- Principal/Headmaster/Headmistress' Name:

- List your Matric Subjects. Please tick your strongest subjects:

Matric Subject	Top Symbol achieved to date	Tick your favorite Subjects

- Are you taking English First Language at school? Will you write the exam?

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

School	Area	Grades completed

- 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, etc). Please continue on the back of this page if you need more space.

PRIMARY SCHOOL:

HIGH SCHOOL:

COMMUNITY/OTHER:

- **List all prizes, honors or awards you have received during secondary and 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?**

