



United States Achievers Program (USAP) 2009 Application Form

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The Education USA Advising Center at the United States Consulate in Cape Town invites South African students with exceptional academic ability who are highly motivated and of low-income backgrounds to participate in the United States Student Achievers Program (USAP), for US university admission in September 2010. USAP's mission is to give such students access to the university application process for the purposes of full-time, funded degree study at a college or university in the United States, with the aim of producing highly-skilled and widely-educated leaders for tomorrow's South Africa.

During the grade 12 year USAP will work closely with selected students, in regularly scheduled meetings and seminars, to assist them through the application process to seek admission and scholarship funding for university study in the US. USAP will finance the costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations. There is no cost for this service, as it forms part of the Public Affairs section of the US Consulate, Cape Town. USAP South Africa is funded by the Opportunity Grants Program of the US Department of State

Once a student is selected for USAP, we will expect an equal commitment from students to give of their energy and time to the program and back to their communities. Although we do not limit the program geographically, students **MUST** be able to reach our offices in Cape Town on a regular (monthly) basis during the 2009 school year, perhaps during school holidays, and intensively after final exams to complete applications by mid-December 2009. USAP students will work with the Education USA Advisor to seek admissions and financial assistance for study from institutions in the US, however **ENTRANCE INTO THE USAP 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 student who will complete high school by the end of 2009. To be eligible for consideration, you must have a **VERY** strong academic record (around 80% aggregate or level 7 work), be active in co-curricular and community activities and be able to demonstrate true 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 15 October, 2008.

Mailing Address:

Education USA Advisor
U.S. Consulate Cape Town
Post Net
Suite 50
Private Bag X26
Tokai 7966

Physical Address:

Education USA Advisor
U.S. Consulate Cape Town
2 Reddam Ave
Tokai

Photocopies of this form are acceptable. We will reply to successful applicants, through their schools, by late November 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.

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 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 (not a relative) who knows you well. Provide the attached guidelines to the person writing the letter, please.
- 3) Write **two** essays, the one from Section A and any one from Section B, each of at least one A4 page:

4)

Section A (compulsory)

Colleges and Universities in the United States will want to understand you as a person, both in and out of the classroom, before they make any admissions decision. Use this essay as an opportunity to tell us about yourself, how you think and what's important to you. You may or may not have a dramatic story to tell, but please note that it is essential that all experiences related in these essays are a **true** and accurate depiction of your life.

Write an essay giving an assessment of the following three qualities in your character and give examples of how they are attested to in your life: Your motivation to overcome challenges or reach goals, your ability to take the initiative and lead; your creative problem-solving abilities.

Section 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 study a wide variety of subjects from the humanities, social sciences, and the pure sciences. With this liberal arts approach to education in mind, please answer one of the following questions to demonstrate your intellectual strengths.

B1. Describe a situation where your opinion was unpopular and you were thus in the minority. How did you make yourself heard and how did you deal with the response to your decision or opinion? What can you learn from this experience to apply to your future? (Please tell a true experience from your own life.)

B2. If you were able to have dinner with a historical figure from any part of the world and any historical time period, whom 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 the positive and potentially negative impact of that discovery 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 Cape Town only:

- If you are from outside of Cape Town, do you have someone you can stay with in Cape Town, and is that accommodation available during the holidays and after your grade 12 exams?
- If accepted, how will you finance transport to come to the Cape Town Education USA Advising Center monthly (at least) during the school term for USAP meetings?

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

Academic and School Information:

- School Name and Mailing Address:

- School telephone number:

- Principal/Headmaster/Headmistress' 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?

- Which exam will you take at the end of grade 12 (ie, Matric, IEB, GCSE):

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

School	Location	Grades Completed
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1.

2.

3.

- 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 or in the community? Please list them here and in which grades or years you held these positions (i.e. class monitor, prefect, Head girl/boy, President of a Club, Captain of a team, etc) in:

PRIMARY SCHOOL:

SECONDARY SCHOOL:

YOUR COMMUNITY/OTHER:

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

