



United States Student Achievers Program 2011 Application Form

There are many determined, talented, economically-disadvantaged students in Zambia who lack only financial resources and access to information to better their educational futures. The United States Embassy seeks to identify highly academically qualified and motivated, low-income, 2010 grade 12 graduates in Zambia to join the United States Student Achievers Program (USAP). USAP helps these students to negotiate and finance the admissions process for colleges and universities in the United States. The ultimate goal of USAP is to produce highly-skilled and widely-educated leaders for tomorrow's Zambia.

USAP works closely with students through regularly scheduled meetings and seminars to secure admission and scholarships to colleges and universities in the United States. USAP finances all costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations. USAP expects, in return, a commitment of students to give back of their energy and time to the program and to their communities. Students will work with our educational advising staff over this year and the next year to try to secure places and financial assistance to begin study in the U.S. in August 2012. **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 student who wrote their ECZ or Cambridge exam in November **2010**. To be eligible for consideration, you must have an EXCEPTIONALLY strong academic record and be actively involved in co-curricular, leadership and community activities. For example, all students admitted last year had all "distinctions" or "ones" in virtually all subjects on their EXZ exam or the equivalent. You must also demonstrate financial need that your family would not be capable of financing the US application process on your own. Successful applications will sit for the US 'Scholastic Aptitude Test' (SAT) exam, thus students may wish to begin studying to prepare to take this challenging standardized exam before the initiation of formal USAP activities.

To apply, please complete this application form and return it together with the required documents listed at the end of the application form by post or in person, no later than **Wednesday, September 14th, 2011** to:

Mailing Address:
Allison L. Hummel
Educational Advisor
Ben Bella Rd.
Lusaka, Zambia
Email: EDULusaka@state.gov

Physical Address:
The American Center
COMESA Building American Center
P.O. Box 31617 Lusaka, Zambia
Tel: 211.227.993; Fax: 211.226.523

Photocopies of this form are acceptable. Because of the volume of applications, we will reply ONLY to successful candidates and may invite finalists for interviews. Please complete this application form fully and neatly, providing us as much information as possible about yourself, your dreams and ambitions, your family background and your academic and extracurricular record. Please send all parts of your application together at one time to ensure that your application is complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

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

USAP 2011 Application Deadline: Wednesday, September 14th, 2011



United States Student Achievers Program 2011 Application Form

Personal Information

1. Full name (first name(s) followed by family name):

2. What name do you prefer to be called?

3. Home address where you reside when not at school:

4. Home Province:

5. Contact telephone(s) (required):

6. Email address, if any:

7. Date of Birth (Month, day, year):

8. Gender:

9. High School Name/Province:

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

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

USAP 2011 Application Deadline: Wednesday, September 14th, 2011



United States Student Achievers Program 2011 Application Form

12. If parents are deceased, state name, relationship, occupation and workplace of your legal guardian:

13. Number of direct siblings, their ages, and for each one, state whether or not they are in school, which school and what level:

14. Number of other dependent people currently living with and supported by your family and each of their relationships to you:

15. Who paid for your high school fees? Were you on any bursary/scholarship? If so, how much did the bursary cover?

16. If your fees were paid for by a relative other than your parents, how many other children's fees are paid for by this same person?

17. Have you or your siblings ever missed a term of schools because of finances? IF so, please explain.

18. If you are from outside of Lusaka, do you have someone you can stay with in Lusaka when you are attending USAP meetings? Please state person's name, relationship to you, physical address and contact telephone number:

19. University applications will require you travel to your former high school to collect information and forms. If you live in a different area than your school, how do you plan on financing this travel?

USAP 2011 Application Deadline: Wednesday, September 14th, 2011



United States Student Achievers Program 2011 Application Form

Academic and School Information

18. High School Name, Mailing Address and Phone Number:
20. Headmaster/Headmistress' Name:
21. What were your ECZ/Cambridge scores in Math and English?
22. List all extra-curricular clubs, sports and activities that you participate or have participated in at school and in your community and/or church. Circle the **one** to which you devote the most time and energy. If you want to give us a sample of your talents, feel free to attach evidence (ie copy of a photo, poem, drawing, musical recording, etc). *We regret that we cannot return materials sent to us.*
23. Please describe which one of these activities has the most meaning for you and why.
24. What is the most important academic prize or honor you have been awarded?
26. Did you hold any leadership positions at school? Please list them here and in which grades you held these positions (ie, prefect, Headgirl/boy, President or Secretary of a Club, Captain of a team, etc)

USAP 2011 Application Deadline: Wednesday, September 14th, 2011



United States Student Achievers Program 2011 Application Form

Short Answer Questions

Feel free to use the back of this sheet or additional paper if the space is insufficient. We want to get to know you as a person through these questions.

27. 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.
28. Outside of your planned career and study path, what are your academic passions? What skills do you want to master or what do you have a burning desire to know more about?
29. What else should we know about your background, your family and your financial situation?
30. Selection for USAP is very keen. Why should we select you over other highly-qualified Zambian students? What makes you unique?
31. Why do you want to study in the US and what qualities do you have that would contribute to your success in studying abroad?
32. What specific impact do you want to make on the future of Zambia? Assuming that you will return home after completing your studies in the USA, how will you contribute positively to your home community? Be honest and objective. Please don't think there is one correct answer!
33. Although USAP started in Zimbabwe, it also now works with students in 17 other countries. What would you want to share with other international USAP students about your home culture and country?
34. When completing this application, which questions was most challenging for you and why?

USAP 2011 Application Deadline: Wednesday, September 14th, 2011



United States Student Achievers Program 2011 Application Form

Additional Information/Essay Questions

Read directions carefully; it is essential that you attach to your application the documents listed below. Please do not send originals of certificates or reports as we cannot guarantee the return of any documents to unsuccessful candidates. Include the Following Documents:

- 1) A **photocopy** of your ECZ grade 12 results, preferably stamped by your current school. Include Cambridge IGCSE or other results, if applicable.
- 2) A full letter of recommendation attesting to your character, academic talent and leadership skills by a teacher, headmaster, pastor or community leader who knows you well, either typed or handwritten. These letters must clearly describe you as an individual and your unique strengths and promise to take on challenging advanced academic training at the University level.
- 3) Write two essays, one from **Group A** and one from **Group B**, each of at least one page.

Essays are important components of US higher education applications. 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 practice. Let us get to know you through this exercise while demonstrating how well you can communicate what you think and what's important to you. As we want to get to know you as an individual and not look for the most dramatic tale, it is essential that all experiences related in these essays be a true and accurate depiction of your life. It is also important that these essays be either typewritten or written very neatly and legibly.

Group A – Choose one only

1. Describe a situation where your personal values were challenged 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.)
2. Evaluate a positive or negative choice you have made that has influenced your life greatly. What have you learned about yourself and about the values involved in decision making from this experience?
3. If someone invented a time-travel machine that allowed you to go back in time in your own life, and change something that either you or someone else did that has had a direct impact on your life, what would you change, and why? Reflect briefly in your conclusion on whether you think such a machine would be an asset or a detriment to society.
4. If you could go back in time and meet any historic figure, who would you want to meet? Why would you want to meet that particular person and what types of questions would you ask them. Reflect on how they might respond to your queries and why.

USAP 2011 Application Deadline: Wednesday, September 14th, 2011



United States Student Achievers Program

2011 Application Form

Group B – Choose one only. *Regardless of your area of focus, 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 educational philosophy in mind, please answer one of the following questions to demonstrate your intellectual strengths.*

1. *“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”* Martin Luther King, Jr. Use evidence from your studies, your knowledge of current affairs and your experiences to write a paper agreeing or disagreeing with this statement.
2. The year 2011 will be an election year in Zambia, where candidates for public office will need to convince the people that they would bring about positive change. If you were in contention to be the new Minister of Education, what would be your campaign platform? How would you positively reform the Zambian educational system? Write your manifesto!
3. What is the greatest scientific discovery so far in the history of humankind? Describe its positive and potentially negative impact to justify your choice. If you could make one scientific discovery in your life, what would it be, and why?

USAP 2011 Application Deadline: Wednesday, September 14th, 2011