District 211

College Application Process

College & Career READINESS

Agenda

- **Planning for College**
  - Finding the Right Fit
  - Admissions
  - Application Process
- **MaiaLearning**
  - What is MaiaLearning
  - Career and College search
  - Generating a College List
- **Senior Year Events**



College Search

Where do I begin the process?

Finding the Right Fit

What to think about when selecting your school?



- Size
- Rigor/Selectivity
- Distance
- Setting/Town
- Private vs Public
- Major
- Social Life/Friends
- School Environment/Religion
- Special Services
- Cost (Do not let it prevent you from applying)
- Visit colleges to identify your preference in a campus
- Meet with college representatives that visit your school

What do colleges want to see?

- **Grades/GPA**
  - Can submit weighted or unweighted GPA
  - If you are unsure which to submit, talk to your School Counselor!
- **Course Rigor**
  - Did you challenge yourself?
- **Test Scores**
  - Order official scores from College Board / ACT
- **Essay**
- **Letter of Rec**
- **Extra Curriculars** (1-2 & leadership roles if applicable)
- **Student Interests**

Application Process

- ❑ Online Application Deadlines
- ❑ Transcripts
- ❑ Test Scores
- ❑ Letter(s) of Recommendation
- ❑ Personal Statement/Essay
- ❑ Fees
- ❑ Look for an application checklist

Note: *Only send what is required or optional*



Visit Common Apps Website for Essay Prompts

Testing

ACT and SAT

National Standardized Testing

- National Test Dates are offered on Saturdays at local high schools throughout the year
- Universities accept both the ACT and SAT
- ACT Science section is optional
- Self report test scores
- Sending official test scores

SAT Website:

Registration Websites:

SAT
https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration/dates-deadlines

ACT
https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html

ACT Website:

MaiaLearning

For students

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MaiaLearning and Your Student

College

Apprenticeship Programs

Preparing for life after high school

Workforce

Military

Vocational Programs



UNIVERSITY AND CAREER PLANNING

maialearning

What is MaiaLearning?

- College & Career planning platform
- Career exploration
- Post high school exploration
  - Common App
  - Transcripts
  - Scholarships
  - and more!



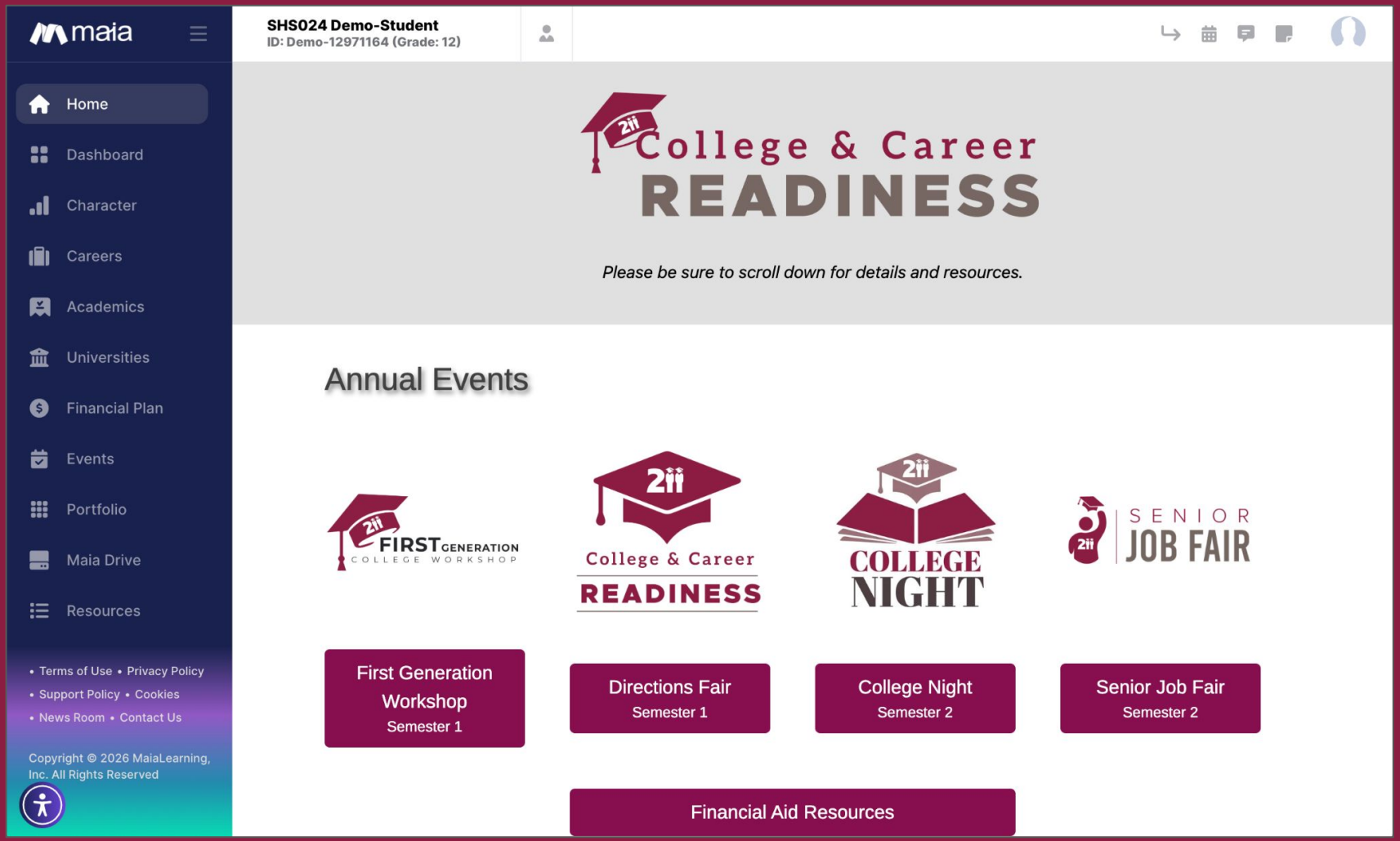
For Students

- Task Management
- Interests & Personality Assessments
- Research & Plan
  - Careers
  - Universities & Military
  - Scholarships
- Events
  - College rep visits; virtual fairs
- Portfolio Development
- Communication & Meetings

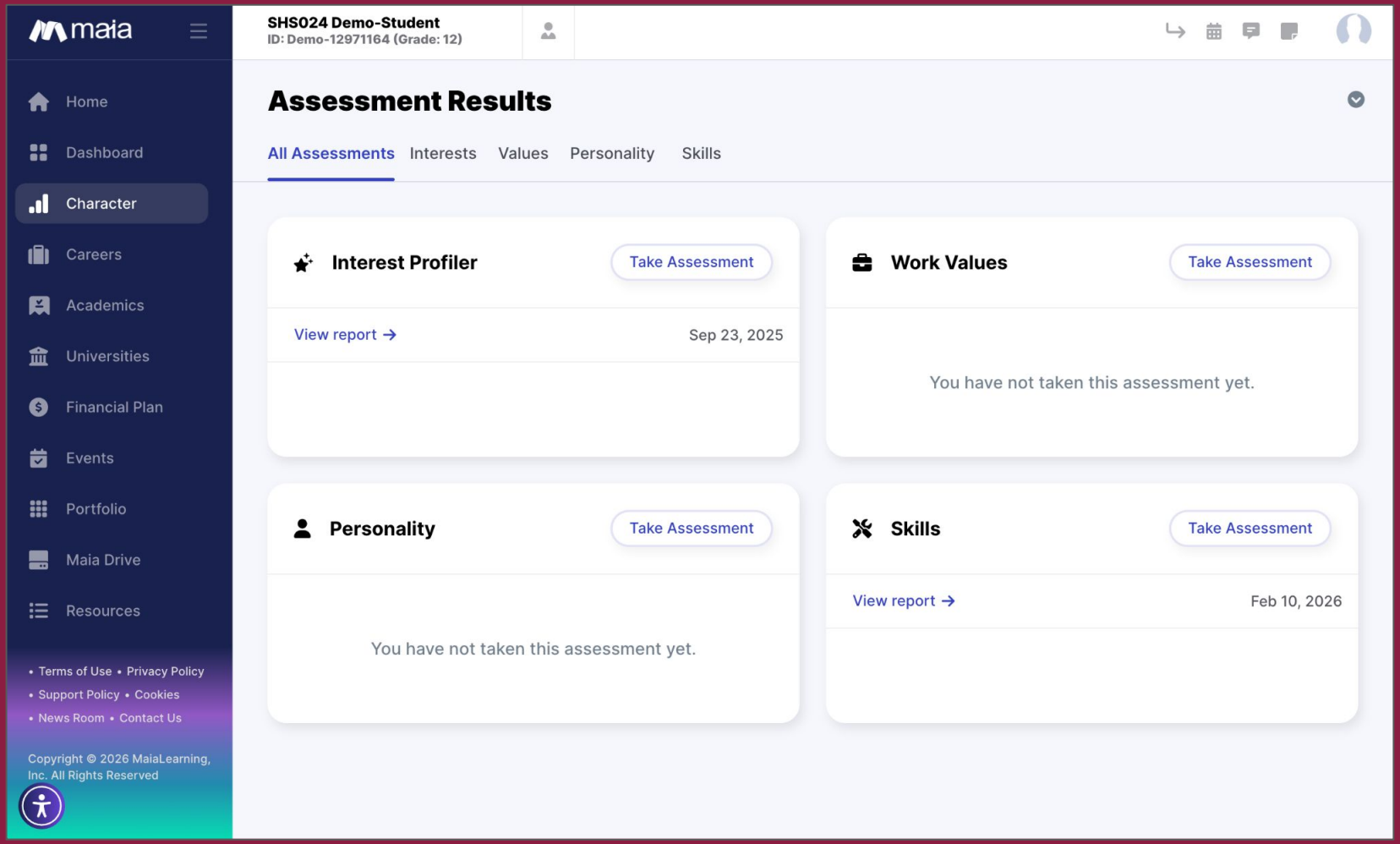




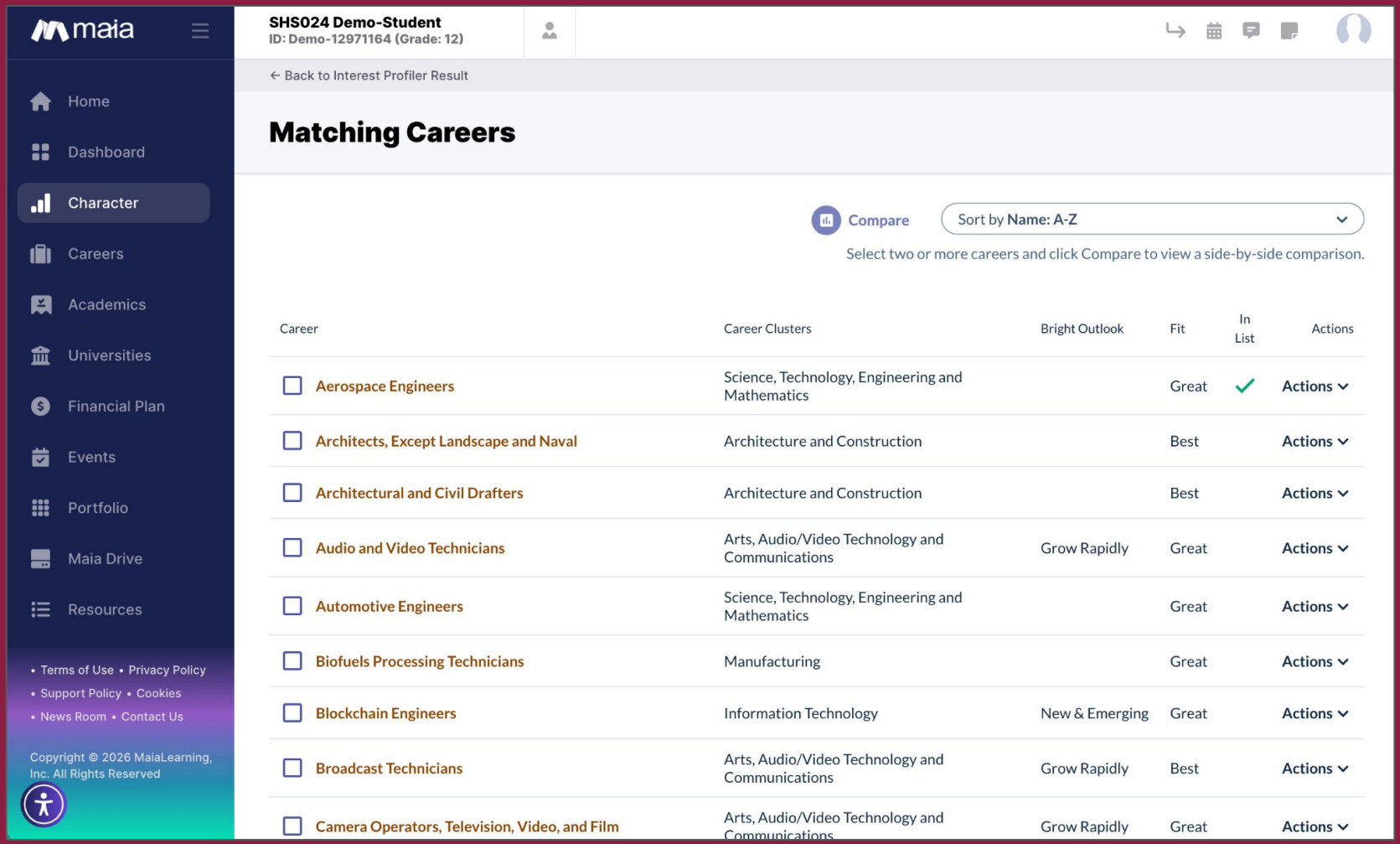
MaiaLearning Home Page



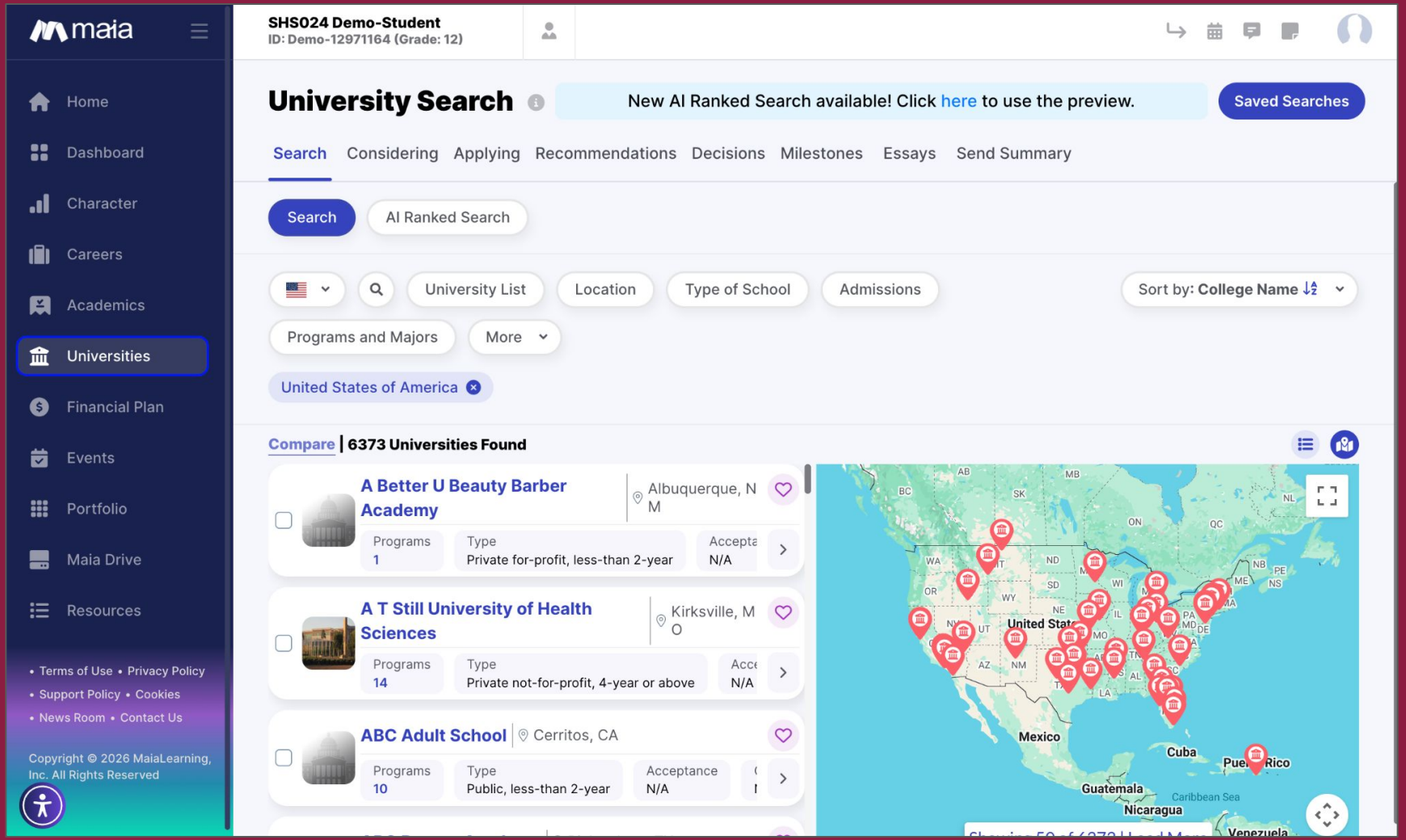
Character Assessments



Career Recommendations

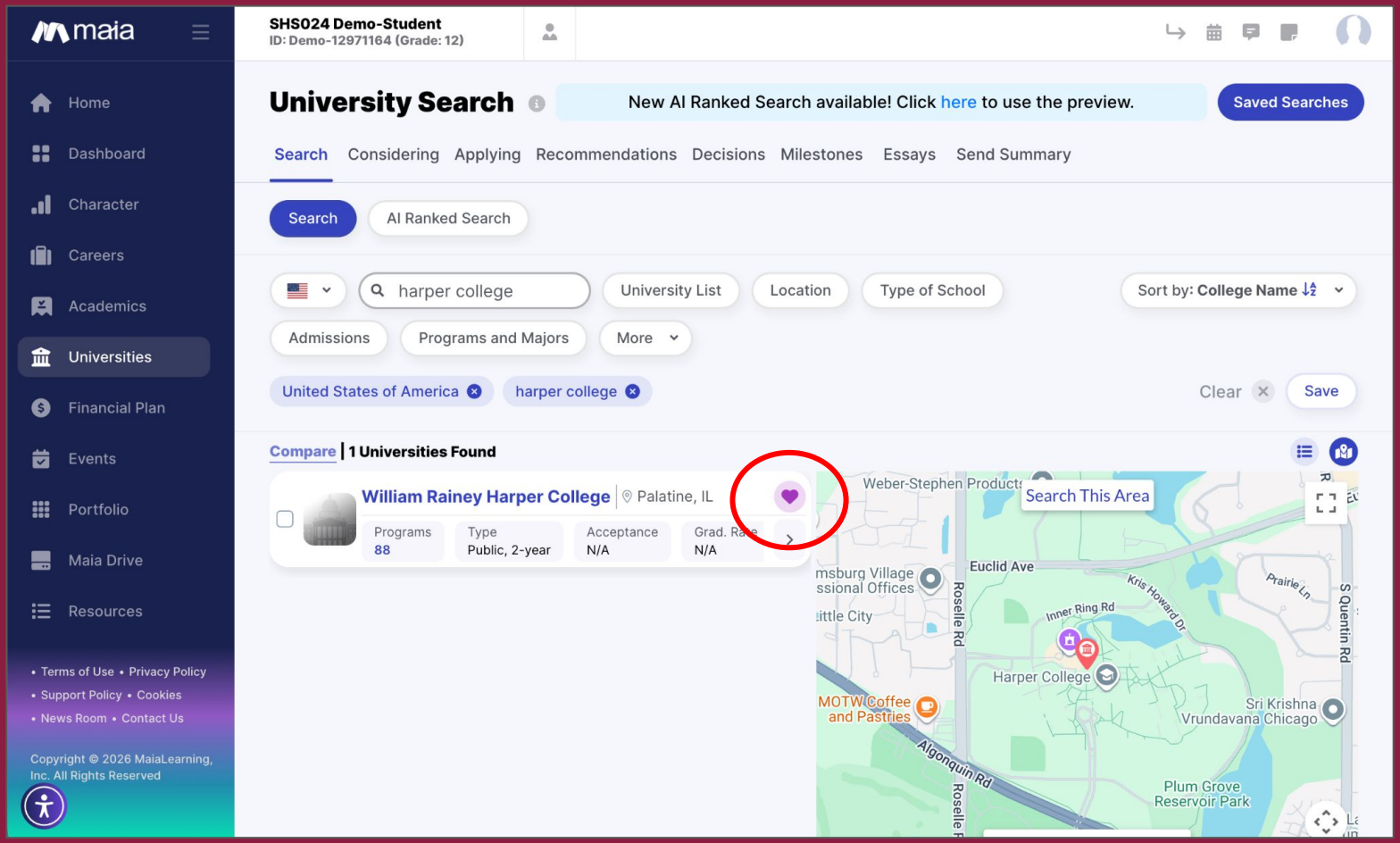


University Search

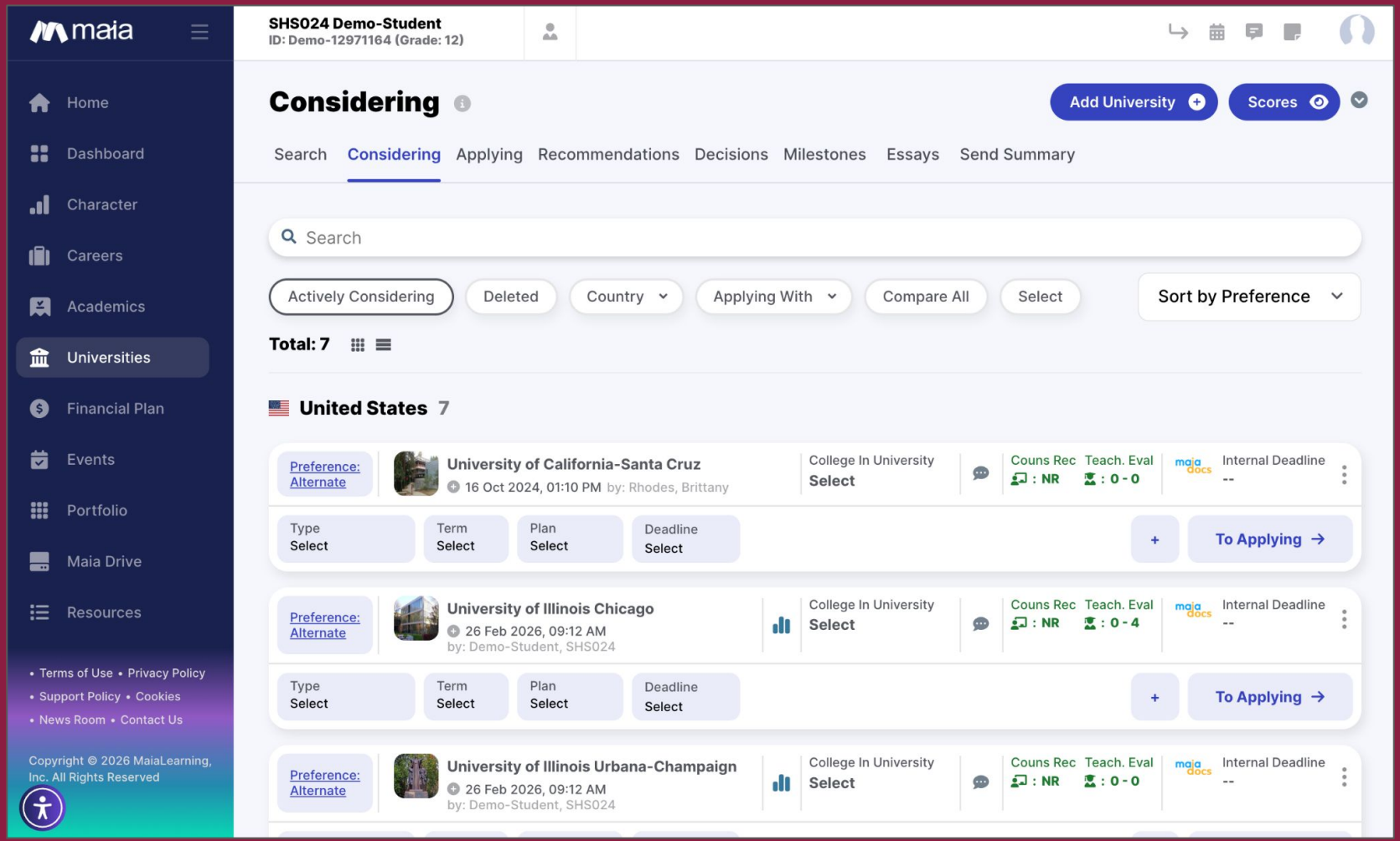


University Search

- Select 5- 7 College/Universities that interest you!



Select “Considering” to see all the schools selected!



Letter of Recommendations

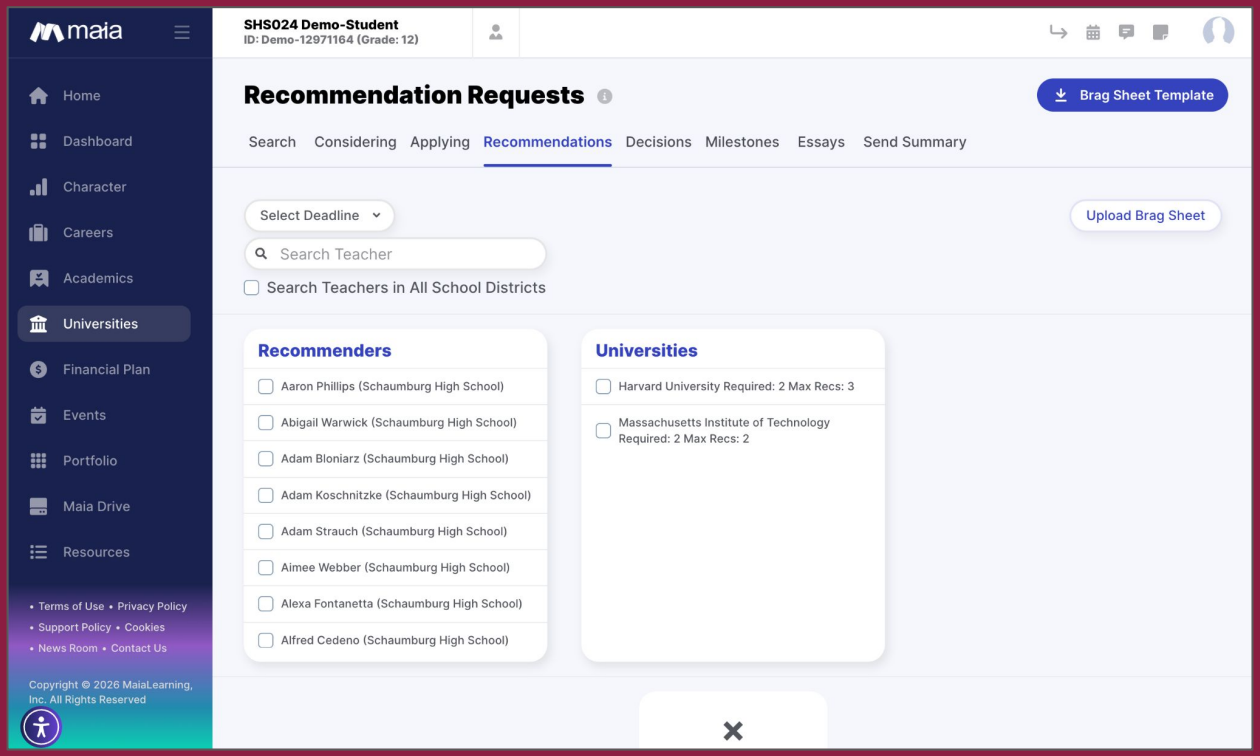
- **Do not request any letters of recommendation until the first day of school!**
- You are allowed to request a letter of recommendation from a maximum of 3 recommenders
- Meet with your recommender AT LEAST 4 weeks before the first application due date
- Your **Brag Sheet** should be completed and uploaded into MaiaLearning under “Universities - Recommendations” to provide an accurate reflection of “your story”
- It is helpful if you provide your letter writers a copy of your personal statement so that they can have a holistic view of your application

Letter of Recommendation Process

"Brag Sheet" template

1. Download
2. Complete & Save to your device
3. Upload Completed "Brag Sheet" in Maia Learning

All recommenders have access in Maia Learning



MaiaLearning

For parents/guardians

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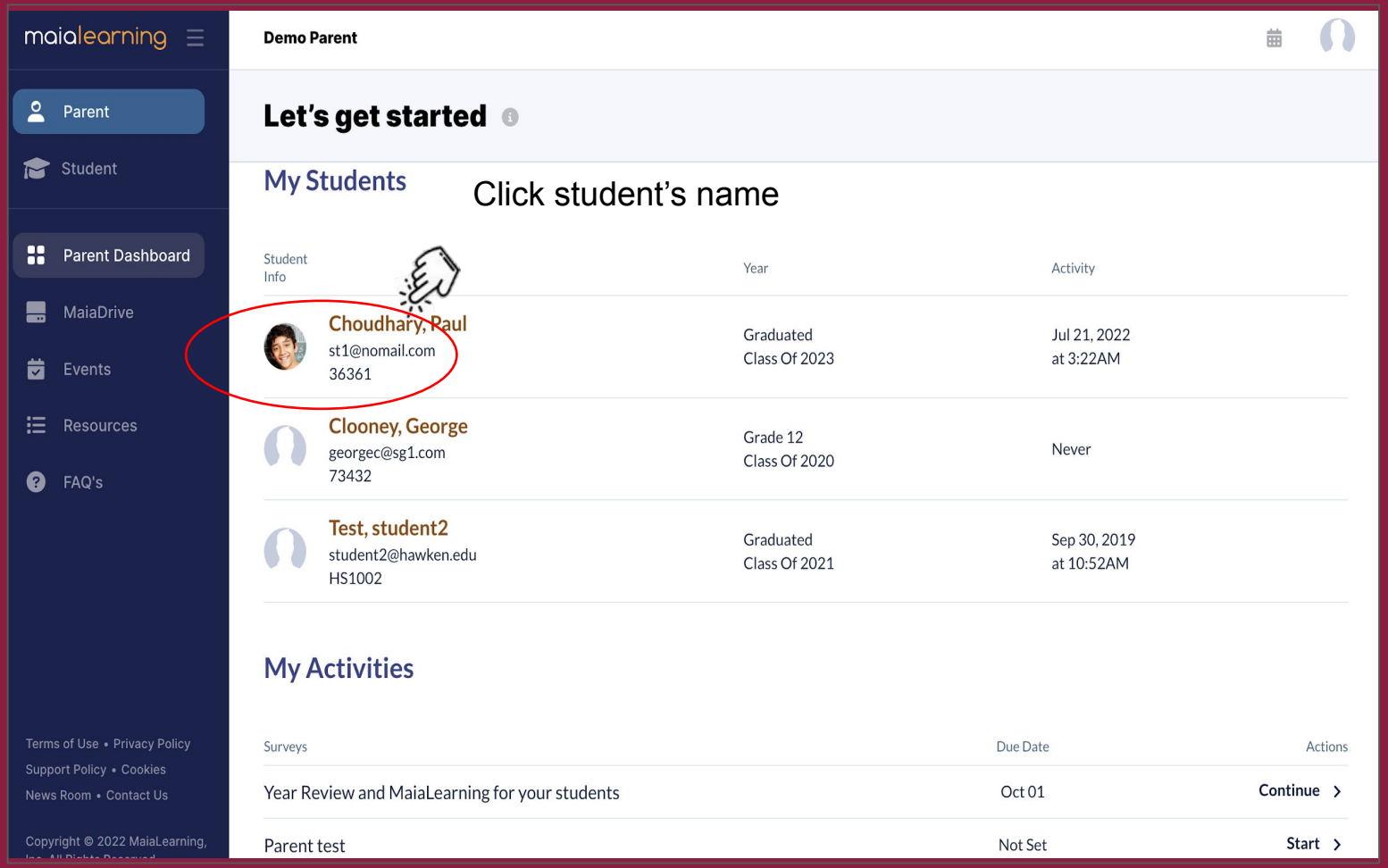
For Families

- **Parent/Guardian Accounts**
  - *If login expired, select "Forgot Password"*
  - *Infinite Campus email*
- Support your student through exploration and application
- Communication
- Post High School Planning





Parent/Guardian Dashboard



Financial Aid

How will we pay for school?

Financial Aid



Merit Aid

Scholarships awarded to students based off applications including grades, test scores, extracurriculars, essays, fit, etc.

Usually automatically given to students

Need based Aid

Based off family's financial situation from prior year and is determined by family's result of the FAFSA

Can be given, borrowed, or earned

What is the FAFSA?

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Graduation requirement for all seniors in the state of Illinois
- Needs to be completed by graduation in order for students to get their diploma
- Should be open by October 1st for families to fill out and we recommend filling it out ASAP!

What is needed for the FAFSA?

- *Student and parent's FSA ID that you can create here:*
- *Student and parent's social security numbers*
- *Prior year taxes*
- *Current balance of cash, savings, and checking accounts*
- *Net worth of investments, businesses, or farms*
- *Records of child support received (if applicable)*

What other options are available for my student or family?

Alternative Application

- For students who do not have a social security number
- Allows them to still be eligible for state aid
- Satisfies graduation requirement

Nonparticipation Form

- Form student fills out if over 18 or student and parent fill out if under 18 stating that they do not want to fill out the FAFSA at this time
- Can always fill out the FAFSA if family changes their minds
- Satisfies graduation requirement
- Will be available in the fall on the ISAC Website
- Need help with the FAFSA? Your home school will have Financial Aid Nights, FAFSA Workshops, open FAFSA Advising Hours and more this fall!

Senior Year Events

How can I start preparing?

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Rising Senior Summer Checklist

- ❑ Testing
- ❑ College Lists
- ❑ College Visits
- ❑ Watch the college application video
- ❑ Attend student summer workshop
- ❑ Start working on your Common App essay and supplemental essays.

Student In-Person Workshop College Application Process

- Two Events
- One for the South Campuses
- One for the North Campuses

STUDENT REGISTRATION REQUIRED

School Events

- College Rep Visits
- Senior Group Guidance
- Individual Student Meetings with Counselors
- FAFSA/Financial Aid Office Hours
- Career Treks

Details will be posted in Maia Learning

Fall Evening Events

- **College Application Process In Depth**
  Before Parent Open House at each school

- **Financial Aid Sessions**
  Available at each school.
  Dates and times will be communicated in the fall

- **First Generation College Night**
  Dates and times will be communicated in the fall

Details will be posted in MaiaLearning

Thank you for joining us!

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