

# CLASS OF 2026

## *College Application Process*



# 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*



25-26 Common App  
Essay Prompts



# Testing

*ACT and SAT*



# National Standardized Testing

TEST	REGISTER BY	NATIONAL TEST DATE
SAT - College Board	May 22nd	June 7th
SAT - College Board	-	August 23rd
SAT - College Board	-	September 13th
ACT	May 9th	June 14th
ACT	June 6th	July 12th
ACT	August 1st	September 6th

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*



# MaiaLearning and Your Student

College  
Apprenticeship  
Programs

Preparing for life  
after high school

Workforce

Military

Vocational  
Programs



UNIVERSITY AND CAREER PLANNING  
**maia**learning

# 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





# Student Dashboard

maialearning

Anne Iversary



Dashboard

Character

Careers

Academics

Universities

Financial Plan

Curriculum

Events

Portfolio

Notes

MaiaDrive

Resources

## Dashboard

Scores

Upcoming Surveys 4 Overdue 21 Completed 15

### MAIAZINE

Trying to figure out what to study and where? Find something that fits you in our new magazine.

Open →



All Upcoming

This Week

Next Week

This Month

Next Month

All Assignments

Fri, 22 Jul 2022

★ Complete the Interest Profiler

Type

Career

Start Time

Actions

...

★ Complete the Interest Profiler...

Career

...

Thu, 28 Jul 2022

Create a S.M.A.R.T. Goal for getting into your #1 College.

Type

College

Start Time

Actions

...

★ University of Colorado Colorado Springs Rolling Decision Application

Applications

# Assessments

The screenshot shows the 'maialearning' website interface. The top navigation bar includes the user's name 'Anne Iversary' and icons for navigation, user profile, calendar, and chat. A dark blue sidebar on the left contains a menu with items: Dashboard, Character (highlighted), Careers, Academics, Universities, Financial Plan, Curriculum, Events, Portfolio, Notes, MaiaDrive, and Resources. The main content area is titled 'Interest Profiler' and features a sub-menu with 'Interests' (selected), Values, Learning & Productivity, Personality, Intelligences, Skills, Strengths, Cognition, and Wellbeing. The central section is titled 'Match Professions to Your Passions' and includes the text: 'Discover professions you'll really enjoy working at. Define your interests and see how they relate to the world of work.' Below this is a three-step process diagram: 1. 'Decide how much you'd like or dislike each task', 2. 'Review a profile of your interests based on your responses', and 3. 'Explore careers that match your interests'. At the bottom left, the text 'Click to see results' is accompanied by a hand icon pointing to a 'See Previous Results' button, which is circled in red. To the right of this button is a yellow 'Continue Assessment' button.

maialearning

Anne Iversary

## Interest Profiler

[Interests](#) [Values](#) [Learning & Productivity](#) [Personality](#) [Intelligences](#) [Skills](#) [Strengths](#) [Cognition](#) [Wellbeing](#)

### Match Professions to Your Passions

Discover professions you'll really enjoy working at. Define your interests and see how they relate to the world of work.

1. Decide how much you'd like or dislike each task
2. Review a profile of your interests based on your responses
3. Explore careers that match your interests

Click to see results

[See Previous Results](#) [Continue Assessment](#)

# Career Recommendations

**maialearning**

**Anne Iversary**

← Back to Interest Profiler Result

## Matching Careers

**Compare**

Sort by Name: A-Z


Select two or more careers and click Compare to view a side-by-side comparison.












Career	Education Level	U.S. Median Salary	Bright Outlook	Fit	In List	Add to Career List
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, and English as a Second Language Instructors	Bachelor's Degree, Some College Courses, Master's Degree	\$55,350		Best		Actions ▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Arbitrators, Mediators, and Conciliators	Doctoral Degree, First Professional Degree, Bachelor's Degree	\$66,130		Best		Actions ▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Art Therapists	Master's Degree, Post-Master's Certificate, Post-Doctoral Training	\$57,310	Grow Rapidly	Best	✓	Actions ▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast Announcers and Radio Disc Jockeys	Less than a High School Diploma, Master's Degree, High School Diploma	\$36,770	Grow Rapidly	Best	✓	Actions ▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Teachers, Postsecondary	Doctoral Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree	\$88,010		Best	✓	Actions ▼
<input type="checkbox"/> Career/Technical Education Teachers, Middle School	Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate	\$62,270		Best	✓	Actions ▼

Click for details


# Let's Explore Universities



**maialearning** 

-  Dashboard
-  Character
-  Careers
-  Academics
-  **Universities**
-  Financial Plan
-  Events
-  Portfolio
-  Notes
-  MaiaDrive
-  Resources

**CHS006 Demo-Student**  
ID: Demo-7952710 (GR: 12)



## University Search

Search   Considering   Applying

Location

Region >

State >

Test Optional Universities ☐

University List >

Type of School >


Selectivity >

Browse Programs >


Sports >

Diversity >

**SAT - EBRW**

200  800

**SAT MATH**







# Postsecondary Exploration

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

Click this heart button for schools you would consider



Search Considering Applying Recommendations Decisions Milestones Essays Send Summary

Filter Illinois X 4-Year College or University X Public X Programs: 1 items selected X Clear Filters

Location  
Region >  
State >  
Illinois X

Test Optional Universities ☐

University List >

Type of School >





Selectivity >

Browse Programs >

Sports >

### Universities

Sort by University Name ▾

	12 Universities found	SAT Scores	ACT Scores	Acceptance Rate	Compare	
	<b>Chicago State University</b> Chicago, IL, United States of America	840-1078	16-20	46%	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Eastern Illinois University</b> Charleston, IL,	0-0	18-23	56%	<input type="checkbox"/>	

# Select “Considering” to see all the schools selected!

The screenshot shows the 'maialearning' dashboard for user 'Anne Iversary'. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Dashboard, Character, Careers, Academics, Universities (highlighted), Financial Plan, Curriculum, Events, Portfolio, Notes, MaiaDrive, and Resources. The main content area is titled 'Universities Considering' and includes a sub-header with tabs: University Search, Considering List (active), Applying List, Milestones, Send Summary, Request Recs, Decisions, and Essays. Below the tabs are filters for 'Actively Considering' and 'Deleted', and a 'View: Grid' button. On the right, there are icons for 'Compare All', 'Scores', 'PDF', and 'CSV'. A summary states 'Total number of colleges: 3'. Three university cards are displayed: Eastern Oregon University (La Grande, OR), Ohio State University-Main Campus (Columbus, OH), and University of Alabama at Birmingham (Birmingham, AL). Each card features a 'Choice' dropdown, a 'Notes' field with a red '0', and buttons for 'Application', 'Info', and 'Notes'. Below each card are dropdown menus for 'Application Type' and 'Term', and a link to 'Application Plan'.

maialearning

Anne Iversary

## Universities Considering

University Search **Considering List** Applying List Milestones Send Summary Request Recs Decisions Essays

Actively Considering Deleted View: Grid

Compare All Scores PDF CSV

Total number of colleges: 3

Choice

Application Info Notes 0

**Eastern Oregon University**  
La Grande, OR

Application Type Select

Term Select

Application Plan

Choice

Application Info Notes 0

**Ohio State University-Main Campus**  
Columbus, OH

Application Type Select

Term Select

Application Plan

Choice

Application Info Notes 0

**University of Alabama at Birmingham**  
Birmingham, AL

Application Type Select

Term Select

Application Plan

# 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*

**Recommendation Requests**

Search Considering Applying **Recommendations** Decisions Milestones Essays Prepare Docs Send Docs Send St

Enter Recommender Name x Deadline for Recommendations

☐ Search for teacher in all district schools Select Deadline

Max Recommenders: 3 Upload Brag Sheet

**Recommenders**

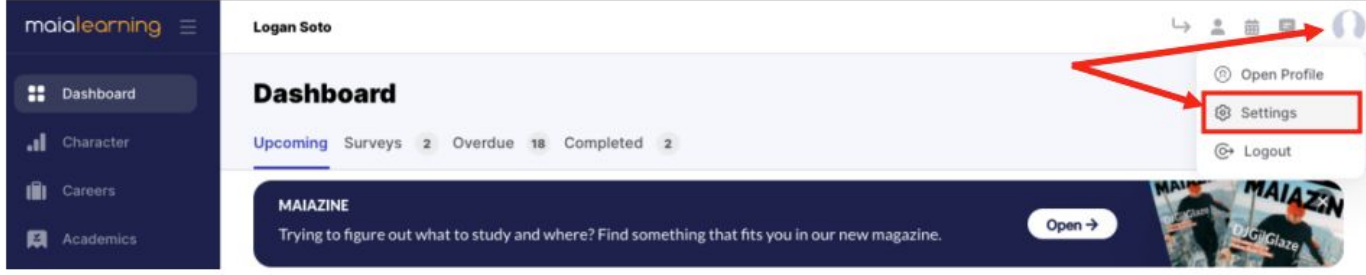
- ☐ Adam Gilman (William Fremd High School)
- ☐ Aleksandra Sobota (William Fremd High School)
- ☐ Allyson Baisden (William Fremd High School)
- ☐ Alyssa Durkin (William Fremd High School)

**Universities**

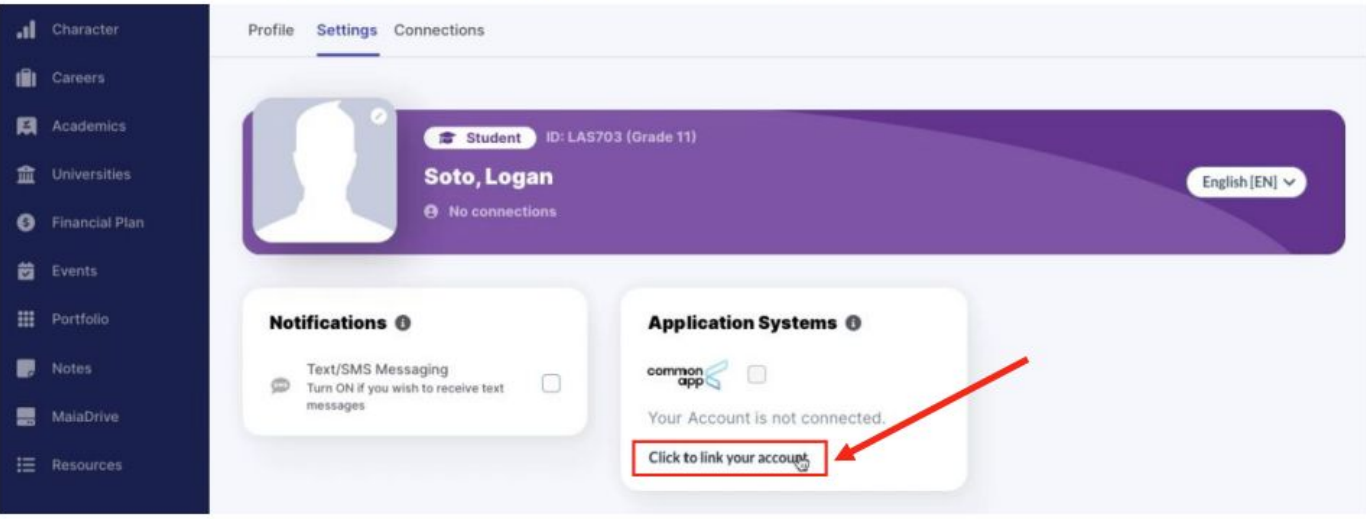
- ☐ Howard University

Enter a note for the recommender

# Letter of Recommendations MaiaLearning - School Staff Only



- In the **Application Systems** section, select **Click to link your account**



# MaiaLearning

*For parents/guardians*



# 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

maialearning

Parent

Student

Parent Dashboard

MaiaDrive

Events

Resources

FAQ's

Terms of Use • Privacy Policy

Support Policy • Cookies

News Room • Contact Us




Copyright © 2022 MaiaLearning, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Demo Parent

Let's get started

My Students

Click student's name

Student Info	Year	Activity
 <div>Choudhary, Parv st1@nomail.com 36361</div>	Graduated Class Of 2023	Jul 21, 2022 at 3:22AM
 <div>Clooney, George georgec@sg1.com 73432</div>	Grade 12 Class Of 2020	Never
 <div>Test, student2 student2@hawken.edu HS1002</div>	Graduated Class Of 2021	Sep 30, 2019 at 10:52AM

My Activities

Surveys	Due Date	Actions
Year Review and MaiaLearning for your students	Oct 01	Continue >
Parent test	Not Set	Start >



# 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 in 2025 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*
- *2024 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?*



# SUMMER RISING SENIOR CHECKLIST



Here are some helpful things you  
can do this summer to prepare for  
college applications in the fall!



## TESTING

Utilize time this summer to take another SAT or ACT exam if you hope to get a higher score! You can apply with either a SAT or ACT score this fall.

SAT: [Summer Dates](#) - June 7th and August 23rd (register [here](#))

ACT: [Summer Dates](#) - June 14th and July 12th (register [here](#))



## COLLEGE LIST

Work on your college list!

- 6-12 schools
- Mix of safety, match, and reach schools
- Need help finding colleges? Use the University search on [Maia Learning](#) or College Board's [Big Future](#) search tool!



## VISIT COLLEGES

Visit colleges you might be interested in this summer! To plan formal visits, visit the school's website or reach out to their office of admissions. This can help narrow down your list!



## WATCH THE COLLEGE APPLICATION VIDEO

Learn about the college application process and how to use MaiaLearning to prepare for the Fall application season.



## ATTEND A STUDENT COLLEGE WORKSHOP

- Tuesday, July 29 - 9 AM to 12 PM at Hoffman Estates HS
- Monday, August 4 - 9 AM to 12 PM at Palatine HS
- **STUDENT REGISTRATION REQUIRED** - <https://tinyurl.com/D211SrWorkshop>



## START WORKING ON COMMON APP AND ESSAY

- Common App opens August 1, 2025!
- [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Over 1,000 colleges and universities nationwide use Common App
- Start working on drafts of your Common App Essay
- [Essay prompts](#) can already be found on the Common App website

# Student In-Person Workshop

## College Application Process



Tuesday, July 29th  
Hoffman Estates High School  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

OR

Monday, August 4th  
Palatine High School  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



**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**  
Thursday, August 28, 2025, 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**  
Thursday, September 25th, 2025

Details will be posted in MaiaLearning

# Postsecondary Counselors

Jordan Schroeder	Palatine High School
John Baima	Fremd High School
JC Brown	Conant High School
Reiko Akiyoshi	Schaumburg High School
Patrick Evans	Hoffman Estates High School



# Thank you for joining us!

