



## ***College and Career Corner - Applying to College***

If you or your student is a senior, they will have two monumental tasks to complete this year: (1) graduate from SJNA and (2) finalize their plans for after high school. For many, college is the answer. But what exactly is college and how do students get there?

A common misconception is that when we say “college,” we mean a four-year university that students not only attend classes at but also live at as well, but for many, that isn’t the case. The dictionary defines *college* as “an educational institution or establishment, in particular one providing higher education or specialized professional or vocational training.” So really, college is any type of education received beyond high school that prepares someone to take up employment or trains them in a skilled craft or trade. This includes trades schools, two-year community colleges, apprenticeships, pursuing certifications or licenses for employment, and of course, pursuing a bachelor’s degree at a state, public or private university. When we start to change our perception of college, we can realize that it truly is for everyone.



*Lanier Technical College in Georgia*

No matter what type of college you or your student is interested in, the application process is the first real step they take towards making their post-high school dream a reality. In this *College and Career Corner*, I want to go over a few different application options available to most students.

1. Common App - this online application is accepted by over 900 schools in the United States. Instead of filling out an application to each school individually, students send this one application to all of the universities of their choice. As the name suggests, this is the most common application used.



## College and Career Corner - Applying to College

2. College Websites - some colleges do not accept the Common App and instead require students to apply directly through their school website.
3. Early Action - applications are typically submitted on November 1st through November 15th (deadlines vary depending on the school). **Early Action is non-binding.** It is simply a way to apply to schools before the regular decision deadline and you will know earlier whether or not you were accepted. It also signals to schools that they are one of your top choices and that you are more likely to enroll if accepted, enabling them to prioritize your application before they receive the majority of their applications via regular decision. It may also help increase your chances of admission.
4. Early Decision and Early Decision II - similar to Early Action, most Early Decision applications are due in November. Some colleges are now offering Early Decision II, which are applications that would be due before January. The most important difference between Early Action and Early Decision is that all **Early Decision applications are binding, meaning that if you apply to a school and are accepted, you must enroll there and withdraw your applications to all other universities.**
5. Regular Decision - this is the normal process by which students apply to college and the time when colleges receive most of their applications from prospective students. Regular Decision applications are typically due between January - March, with most students being notified of their acceptance by April 1st.
6. Rolling – these types of applications are reviewed as they are received, meaning students have a much larger window of time to apply and there are no hard deadlines. Candidates are invited to submit their applications at any time.

Depending on the type of college and path after high school they choose, students will have to fill out entrance applications, take admissions exams, submit transcripts and other official documents showcasing their academic, professional and personal accomplishments, request letters of recommendation, provide a portfolio, participate in interviews and more. If you have any questions regarding deadlines or what is need for the college of your choice, please reach out to the College and Career Counselor, Ms. Catherine Lewis, at [clewis@sjnacademies.org](mailto:clewis@sjnacademies.org).

