YOUR 5-MINUTE GUIDE TO RESTRICTIVE EARLY ACTION POLICIES

2026

SCEA & REA Admissions Cheat Sheet

YOU CAN

- APPLY EARLY TO PUBLIC U.S. UNIVERSITIES
- APPLY EARLY TO INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES
- APPLY REGULAR DECISION OR ED II ANYWHERE

YOU CANNOT

APPLY TO ANY OTHER PRIVATE EARLY ACTION OR EARLY DECISION PROGRAM (UNLESS REQUIRED FOR A SCHOLARSHIP)

CRITICAL DATES (2026–2027)

- NOV 1, 2026: UNIVERSAL SCEA / REA DEADLINE
- DEC 15, 2026 (APPROX.): DECISIONS RELEASED
- MAY 1, 2027: NATIONAL CANDIDATE REPLY DATE (NON-BINDING)

University	Policy	Deadline	Private EA Allowed?
Harvard	REA		✗
Yale	SCEA		✗
Princeton	SCEA		✗
Stanford	REA		✗
Caltech	REA		✗
Notre Dame	REA		✓

STRATEGY CHECK: SHOULD YOU APPLY SCEA?

YES, IF: THE SCHOOL IS YOUR #1 CHOICE AND YOUR APPLICATION IS READY.

NO, IF: YOU NEED TO COMPARE FINANCIAL AID FROM MULTIPLE PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

SCEA.ORG/CHECKER

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Stop Guessing. Start Applying.