Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Summer Engineering Academy (SEA)

SEA Applications

What is the deadline for SEA applications?
The deadline to have all parts of your application completed is March 31, 2016.

What about recommendations, are they subject to the March 31 deadline too?

We strongly encourage that you send recommendation requests well before the March 31 deadline. If you do not, we will accept recommendations from teachers and/or counselors until April 14, 2016. It is important for you to follow through with the people from whom you are requesting recommendations.

What about test scores for SCEEP, are they subject to the March 31 deadline too?

To apply to SCEEP, we encourage you to have taken the ACT or SAT by the application deadline of March 31, 2016. If you take the April 9, 2016 ACT national test, all other application materials must be submitted by March 31, 2016 and we will wait to hear from you regarding your April 9 test results. If you are a State of MI student and taking the SAT in school on April 12, we will accept those results, though SAT expects to release those scores 6 weeks after you take the test due to the piloting of a brand new SAT. We would not be able to accept you into SCEEP without test scores, so you would not hear until late May/ early June whether you have been accepted into SCEEP. Please take note of ACT and SAT national test dates and prepare accordingly.

Please note that if you have not yet taken the ACT or SAT, you should indicate the date you are taking the test in the space provided and it must be by the March 31st deadline unless you are taking a test noted in the paragraph above. Also be aware that if you have taken the ACT or SAT, we will require a copy of your official scores as part of the application process (i.e. via screen shot)
When will final decisions for acceptances to SEA be made?
Decisions for MITE and SEP will be determined by late April. If all application materials are in by 3/31, we will make a decision on your application by late April/early May. If scores are not received by that date, you will not hear until late May/early June if you took the SAT, mid-May if you took the ACT. All students who completed an application will receive an email whether they are accepted or not.

Are there any scholarships for SEA itself for which applicants may apply to cover the cost of participating in SEA?
Please contact our office at cedo-admin@umich.edu if paying for the program is a financial hardship. Our programs are largely paid for through the generous support of corporations who want to see our SEA experience success. The amount charged to students is a fraction of the total cost.

Where do I send any non-electronic SEA materials (as needed)?
Send your SEA materials to:
Summer Engineering Academy
Center for Engineering Diversity and Outreach
1221 Beal Avenue, LEC 1109
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Is every application considered?
Yes, each completed application will be reviewed.

Is the program fee really $100/$300? And if so, why?
Yes, the program fee listed is accurate. SEA is fortunate enough to receive corporate and university support to offset the cost to students.

It is suggested the participants bring some spending money (~$40) for various opportunities that may arise to buy food and to shop in and around campus.

What does it mean when it says that SEA targets “domestic students?”
The Summer Engineering Academy is intended for students living in the United States and its territories.

Can I apply to any program I want?
No, you will only be considered for the program that matches your grade level.
What is required for the application?
Each program has unique requirements. Once you've selected a program, you will be guided through the application to reveal the various requirements for each program. Some programs, for example, require several essays, your transcript, teacher recommendations, and standardized test scores.

If I'm apply to SCEEP do I have to take the ACT or SAT?
The SCEEP program, like our other programs, is highly competitive (more applicants than space available). Providing ACT or SAT scores is required.

Is the ACT required for MITE or SEP?
No.

If I have not taken the ACT (or the SAT), can I still apply to SCEEP?
Yes. SCEEP, however, is very competitive and using a standard instrument (such as the ACT or SAT in our case) for evaluating students helps us make informed decisions, along with your thoughtful essays and teacher recommendations.

Are there many students who apply to SEA?
Yes. SEA receives between four to five times as many applications for our summer programs as there are spaces available.

Do the essays play a role in the decision-making process used by SEA staff to determine each program’s cohort?
Yes, essays play a very important role in our application process.

Ann Arbor

How do I get to Ann Arbor?
By plane:
Out of state participants are asked to arrive at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) between 9:00 am - 12:00 pm on the day the program opens. Our SEA staff members will pick your student up at the baggage claim area. Forms will be provided to you once you’re accepted to SEA to provide detailed travel information.

By Train:
The Ann Arbor Amtrak station is located at 325 Depot St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Once accepted, you will have an opportunity to inform our office about your travel plans. If
You arrive by train, one of our SEA staff will meet you at the train station and drive you to campus.

By car:
Information regarding the opening ceremony will be communicated to accepted students. All events, classes, and lodging for SEA will be on the University of Michigan’s north campus.

**Can we leave the campus while in Ann Arbor?**
No, all participants are required to remain on campus and in the care of our facilitators at all times. Some occasions may arise where program participants will have an opportunity to visit downtown Ann Arbor and other parts of UM with SEA staff.

**Can I have visitors while I’m in SEA?**
No. If you are accepted to one of our programs, we are asking that you dedicate your entire person - your time, focus, and energy - to SEA.

**Student Life**

**Where will residential program (SCEEP and MITE) students stay while participating in the program?**
Students will be housed at Bursley Hall on north campus.

**Will I have a roommate?**
Yes, students are housed in pairs and are randomly assigned a roommate. You will not choose your roommate. On occasion a program may have an odd number of participants, in which case one individual in the cohort will room alone.

**What will we eat?**
The majority of the meals will be in the Bursley Hall cafeteria, which provides many choices presented in buffet fashion. Some meals may be on other parts of the campus and are covered by the program. Occasions may arise for students to get a meal in Ann Arbor under supervision of SEA staff. Students are expected to have some spending money to cover the cost of this meal. A variety of food options will be available. The UM is aware of various cultural and dietary observations due to our diverse student population and the menu offerings each day reflect this reality.
Are there facilities made available to students to exercise?
In the past we’ve been able to create opportunities for early morning runs and visits to the recreational building with SEA staff members. We do not allow students to exercise on their own or in student only groups while they are on campus.

Will there be any time to do any physical activities?
We realize that students need to have opportunities to play and relax. Numerous recreational and sports activities are planned throughout the program. In the past we’ve also been able to create opportunities for early morning runs and visits to the recreational building with SEA staff members.

Is there any dress code for SEA?
Yes. When attending classes, students will be expected to dress appropriately. Male students should wear shirts with collars (no offensive graphic illustrations) and pants (no sagging). Female students should wear shirts that demonstrate a degree of modesty and pants or a skirt. All students should wear comfortable shoes as there is a lot of walking during the course of the program. More information on dress code will be shared in the parent conference call which will be held a week before each program. We do allow participants to wear shorts to class, but they must hit your leg at or below your longest finger when the length of your arm is vertical against your body. Shorts are also acceptable during recreation time/ weekend activities.