

KCET 2026

Choice-1 or Choice-4?

Your Round 2 Seat Allotment Decision Guide What each option means · who should accept · who should try for an upgrade

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Round 2 Allotment Is Out. Now What?

KEA has released the KCET 2026 Round 2 provisional seat allotment on August 19. If you have been allotted a seat, you now have a short window to decide what to do. This is one of the most important decisions of your engineering journey — and thousands of students get it wrong every year by clicking too fast. Read this before you log in.

■ ■ Round 2 context: Round 1 of KCET 2026 filled approximately 1.22 lakh out of 1.41 lakh professional seats across Karnataka. Round 2 is for remaining seats plus upgrades for candidates who want a better college or branch. Login at cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea to check your allotment.

1. Your Options After Round 2 Allotment

When you log in to the KEA portal after the Round 2 result, you will see multiple choice options. The two most important ones are Choice-1 and Choice-4.

CHOICE-1 — Accept and Freeze Your Seat

- You confirm your allotted college and branch. Your seat is locked in.
- You will NOT participate in any further rounds of KCET counselling.
- After selecting Choice-1, you must pay the institutional fee and report to the college on the specified date for document verification.
- Your seat is permanent — no one can take it away in subsequent rounds.
- Best for: Students who are happy with their allotted college AND branch. If you got RVCE, Ramaiah, UVCE, or a good branch at a decent college — seriously consider Choice-1. A confirmed good seat is worth more than the risk of losing it chasing a marginal upgrade.

CHOICE-4 — Exit the KCET Counselling Process

- You voluntarily withdraw from the entire KCET state counselling process.
- Your allotted seat is cancelled. You will not get it back.
- You will not be considered in any further KCET rounds — Round 3, spot round etc.
- This option is ONLY for students who have confirmed admission elsewhere (COMEDK, management quota, another state exam) and do not need a KCET seat.
- NEVER choose Choice-4 speculatively hoping to re-enter later. Once you exit, the process is final and irreversible.
- Best for: Students who have a confirmed seat at another institution and want to formally exit KCET counselling to free up the seat for other candidates.

UPGRADE OPTIONS (Choice-2 / Choice-3) — Try for a Better Seat

- KEA may offer intermediate options allowing you to retain your current seat while expressing preference for a better option in subsequent rounds.
- If a better allotment is available in Round 3 matching your preferences, you may automatically be upgraded — and your Round 2 seat may be cancelled.
- IMPORTANT: The exact upgrade options and their rules vary by year. Always check the official KEA instruction document released with Round 2 results at cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea before selecting any option.
- Best for: Students who have a decent Round 2 seat but specifically want a better branch (e.g., Civil → CSE at same college) or a better college at a similar branch. Only attempt if your rank is competitive enough.

Quick Reference Table

Option	Your current seat	Further rounds	Risk
Choice-1 (Accept & Freeze)	Secured permanently	No — you are done	Very Low
Upgrade Option (Choice-2/3)	Kept or upgraded	Yes — auto-upgrade if better available	Medium
Choice-4 (Exit counselling)	CANCELLED — permanent	No — you exit entirely	Extreme

2. Real Student Stories — Who Should Do What?

Here are three KCET students and exactly what each of them should do after Round 2.

Scenario A — When to choose Choice-1 immediately (Ananya's Story)

- Ananya's KCET Rank: 1,450 | Round 2 allotment: CSE at Ramaiah Institute of Technology.
- Ananya's top choices were: 1. RVCE CSE 2. Ramaiah CSE 3. UVCE CSE.
- She got her 2nd choice — CSE at Ramaiah. This is one of the top engineering colleges in Karnataka. RVCE CSE closed at rank 781 in 2025, well above her rank.
- What should Ananya do? Choose Choice-1 immediately. She got CSE at Ramaiah — there is no realistic upgrade available at her rank. RVCE CSE is out of reach. Sitting on this seat and trying for an upgrade risks losing a Ramaiah CSE seat for a marginal improvement that won't materialise. Lock it in.

Scenario B — When to try for an upgrade (Rahul's Story)

- Rahul's KCET Rank: 4,200 | Round 2 allotment: ECE at Ramaiah Institute of Technology.
- Rahul's top choices: 1. CSE at Ramaiah 2. ISE at Ramaiah 3. ECE at Ramaiah.
- He got his 3rd choice — ECE. He really wants CSE or ISE. Ramaiah CSE closed at rank 2,789 in 2025 — beyond his rank. But Ramaiah ISE closed at 5,435 — that seat could open in Round 3 if students above him who got ISE now move to CSE.
- What should Rahul do? Check if KEA's upgrade option (Choice-2/3) is available for this round. If yes — keep his ECE seat as a floor and try to upgrade to ISE. If a higher option opens, he gets it automatically. If it does not, he keeps ECE at Ramaiah. This is a calculated risk — same college, branch upgrade only.

Scenario C — When NOT to gamble (Priya's Story)

- Priya's KCET Rank: 14,000 | Round 2 allotment: Mechanical Engineering at DSCE.
- Priya wants CSE. She is thinking of choosing Choice-4 or not confirming, hoping Round 3 gives her CSE somewhere.
- What should Priya do? Choose Choice-1 and accept Mechanical at DSCE. DSCE CSE closed at rank 7,996 in 2025 — well above her rank of 14,000. In Round 3, fewer seats are available and CSE seats at this rank level will not open. Choosing Choice-4 here means she exits counselling with nothing. A Mechanical seat at DSCE is a government-aided autonomous college — it is far better than no seat at all.

3. Four Mistakes That Cost Students Their Seats

Clicking too quickly without reading the KEA instruction document**1**

Every year KEA releases a detailed instruction notice alongside the allotment result. It specifies exactly what each choice option means for that particular round. Read it fully before clicking anything. The rules can change between rounds — what was true in Round 1 may not be true in Round 2.

Choosing Choice-4 thinking you can re-enter counselling later**2**

Choice-4 means a permanent exit from KCET 2026 state counselling. There is no way to re-enter after choosing this option. Students who choose Choice-4 without a confirmed alternative seat end up with no admission at all. Do not make this mistake.

Not paying the institutional fee on time after choosing Choice-1**3**

Selecting Choice-1 is only the first step. You must also pay the fee to the allotted college within the deadline specified by KEA. If you select Choice-1 but fail to pay the fee, your allotment is automatically cancelled.

Trying to upgrade a seat at a college better than your rank can realistically achieve**4**

If RVCE CSE closed at rank 781 and your rank is 5,000, that seat will not open in Round 3 regardless of how many students exit. Use the previous year closing ranks in the KCET cutoff PDF to judge whether an upgrade is actually possible at your rank.

4. Your Decision in 60 Seconds

Ask yourself	If YES →	If NO →
Am I happy with both the allotted COLLEGE and BRANCH?	Choose Choice-1. Lock it in. Done.	Move to Question 2.
Is there a specific upgrade (branch or college) that is realistically within my rank? (Check 2025 closing ranks in the cutoff PDF)	Use upgrade option (Choice-2/3) if available — read the KEA notice first.	Choose Choice-1. Don't gamble on an unreachable upgrade.
Do I have a confirmed seat at another institution that I am definitely taking?	Choose Choice-4 to formally exit KCET counselling.	Never choose Choice-4. Choose Choice-1 or upgrade option only.

■ **Pro tip:** Before deciding on an upgrade, check the KCET 2025 closing ranks in the free cutoff PDF. If your rank is comfortably within the Round 2 closing rank for your target branch, an upgrade is realistic. If your rank is 2,000+ above the 2025 closing rank, the upgrade will not happen. Numbers don't lie — trust the data, not hope.

KCET Round 2 live updates — Shiksha.com

Allotment result · how to check · Choice-1 guide ·
counselling schedule

>> shiksha.com/engineering/kcet-exam-counselling

KCET 2026 college cutoff PDF

RVCE · Ramaiah · UVCE · DSCE · BIT closing ranks —
free

>> shiksha.com/engineering/articles/kcet-2026-result-date-and-time-blogId-229247

KCET counselling rules are set by KEA each year and may change between rounds. Always read the official instruction document released with the Round 2 allotment result at cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea before selecting any option. This guide is based on general KEA KCET counselling patterns as published on shiksha.com/engineering/kcet-exam-counselling and is for reference only.

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