



FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC  
UNIVERSITY

# Congratulations

2020 & 2021 GRADUATES

## STUDENT COMMENCEMENT GUIDE

### CEREMONY

Florida Poly's Spring 2021 Commencement will be held Sunday, May 2, 2021 – 10:30 a.m. (will last approximately 2 ½ hours) at the Publix Field at Joker Marchant Stadium (2301 Lakeland Hills Blvd., Lakeland, FL 33805).

[graduation@floridapoly.edu](mailto:graduation@floridapoly.edu); however, we cannot guarantee replacements as seating will be limited.

After the ceremony, graduates will be led out of the Third Base Gate and will not be permitted to re-enter the stadium. Graduates should plan to meet their guests outside the stadium.

### ARRIVAL AND CHECK IN

Graduates should park in the third-base parking lot (labeled student parking on the attached parking map) and enter the stadium through the Third Base Gate. The student parking lot is accessed from Granada Street and Horton Way (see parking map).

Graduates must check in at the Third Base Gate to receive their seating assignment and reader card. Graduates should check in no later than 9:30 a.m.

Guests and graduates will be wanded by security upon entrance and all bags will be checked. Clear bags are recommended to provide an efficient security process. Graduates should keep personal belongings brought to commencement to a minimum. Items such as purses, bags, or anything else that will not fit in your pockets should be left with your guests or should be securely locked in the trunk of your car prior to checking in. Graduates will be separated from their guests and will not have the ability to hand off or receive personal items once the ceremony has begun.

### GUEST TICKETS

Enclosed you will find four guest tickets. Please be sure to distribute these tickets to your guests, along with the Guest Information Guide, prior to the ceremony. Guests must have the physical ticket with them to be admitted into the stadium. Lap-seated children 2 years old and younger do not need a ticket. If your tickets are lost or damaged, please contact

### APPAREL

Graduates will not be permitted to participate without wearing the approved cap, gown, and hoods (for Master's students only). Graduates are permitted to wear cords, medallions, or sashes that have been previously approved by the Office of the University Registrar. Bachelor's tassels are initially worn on the right of the cap and will be moved to the left when directed to do so in the ceremony. Master's tassels are worn on the left of the cap as the bachelor's degree has already been earned. Graduates are encouraged to wear professional attire under their gown. As you choose the clothing to wear, consider:

- Commencement is taking place outside in a baseball stadium. The weather may be hot, so lightweight clothing and the use of sunscreen is recommended.
- **Top:** A collared shirt, blouse, or semi-formal dress. Consider a tie if wearing a collared shirt for an extra touch.
- **Bottom:** Slacks or a skirt. If choosing a long skirt, consider how the length of the skirt aligns with the length of the graduation gown.
- **Footwear:** Avoid shoes that are too casual. You will be walking up and down stadium stairs and on a baseball field (dirt and grass), so consider wearing closed-toe shoes that do not cause you to sink, easily lose balance or trip in the turf. Dress shoes, two-inch block heels, or wedges are recommended.

Cap decorations are permitted as long as the decorations are appropriate, not offensive, or so elaborate that they cause a distraction to the ceremony. The gowns may not be altered in any way. Any decorations deemed inappropriate will need to be removed prior to the start of the ceremony.

**All content is subject to change. Please check [floridapoly.edu/commencement](https://floridapoly.edu/commencement) for updates.**



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### ADA ACCOMMODATIONS

If you and/or your guest(s) need ADA accommodations, please email [ada@floridapoly.edu](mailto:ada@floridapoly.edu) prior to April 30 with your request. Graduates will walk across the baseball field, including dirt and grass terrain, and will walk up steps to the stadium seating.

### READER CARDS

Each graduate will be given a reader card when they check in. Do not lose your reader card! The reader card must be kept with the graduate at all times as it will be given to the name reader before the graduate walks across the field.

### DIPLOMA COVERS

After handing off the reader card, graduates will receive their diploma cover. The diploma cover is yours to take home after commencement. Diplomas will be mailed after degrees have been conferred. Additional information will be emailed after commencement.

### OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Lifetouch is the official photographer for commencement. The photographers will have clear access to take photos of the graduates during the ceremony. Graduates and their families will have the opportunity to order commencement photos from Lifetouch. You will be sent a link to order your commencement photos when they become available. Visit [events.lifetouch.com](https://events.lifetouch.com) to find the photos taken at the 2021 Commencement.

Students will be able to remove their masks for the picture at home plate and before exiting the field. Students will be required to put their masks back on before returning to their seats.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Share your Florida Poly pride before, during, and after the ceremony by tagging your pics #FLPolyGrad on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. All day-of updates, including inclement weather information, will be shared on Facebook and Twitter.

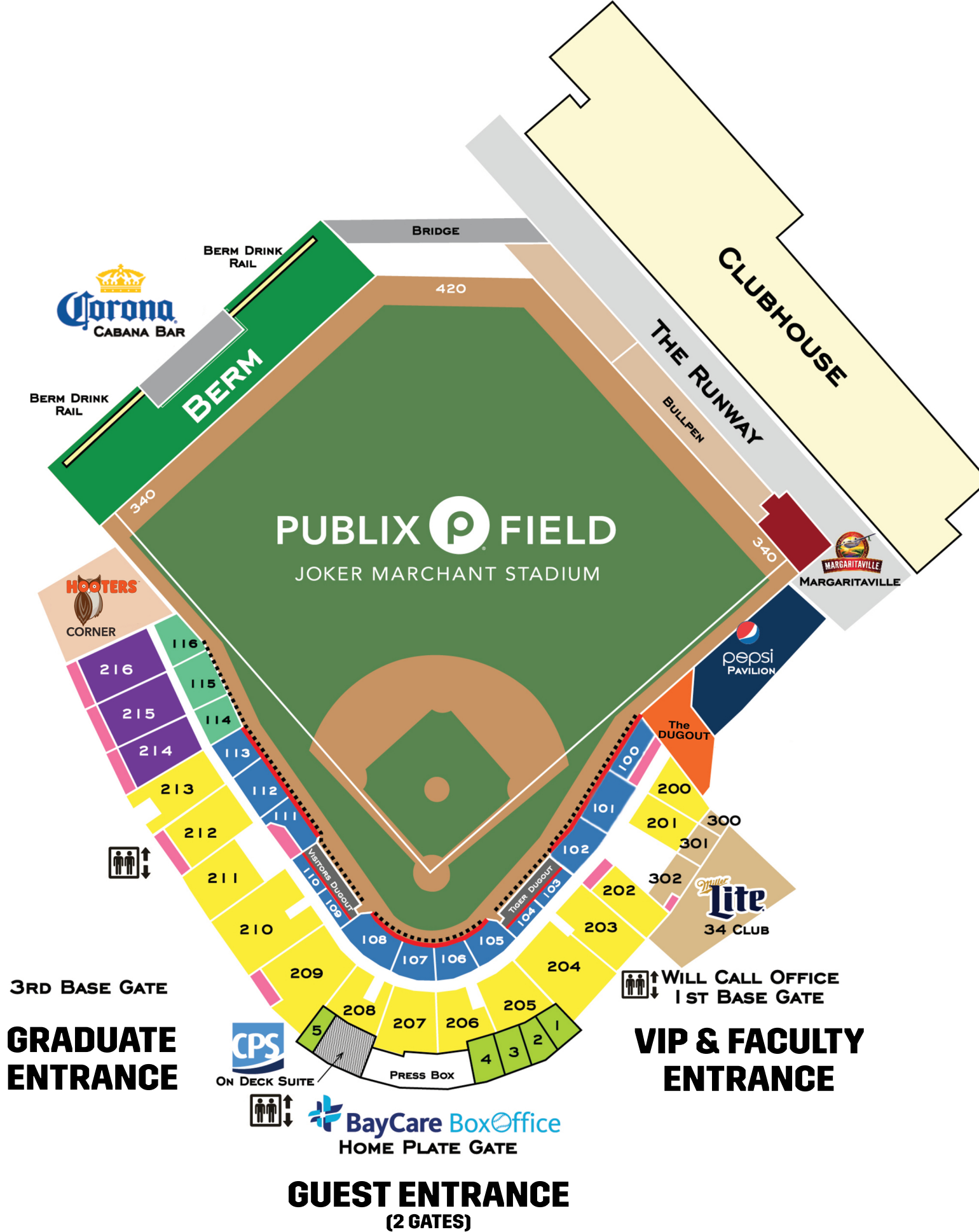
### INCLEMENT WEATHER

All graduates and guests are encouraged to pay careful attention to the weather forecast in the days ahead of the event and prepare accordingly. If rain is predicted, all attendees are encouraged to bring a poncho or rain jacket. Umbrellas will not be permitted in the stadium. In the case of lightning, the event may be delayed; however, the event will go on rain or shine.

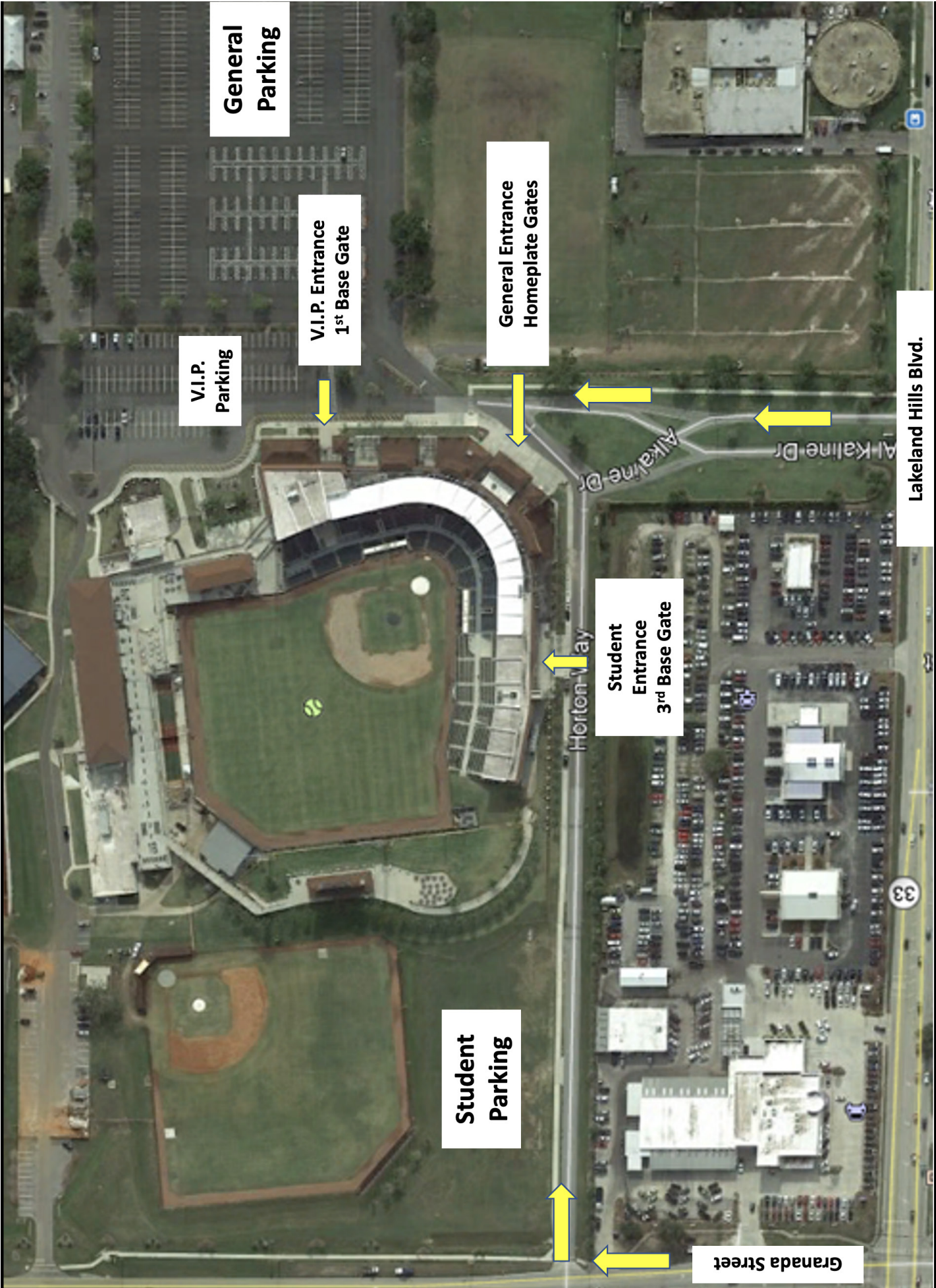
### COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Physical distancing will be used for guests and graduate seating at commencement. **Masks are required** and additional masks will be distributed to participants and guests as needed. Hand sanitizer stations can be found throughout the stadium and individual hand sanitizer will be provided.

*Every person attending Commencement is expected to accept personal responsibility for their actions. By following all current CDC recommendations and University policies and procedures. Guidance from the US Centers of Disease Control (CDC) continues to emphasize that everyone must follow all steps to protect themselves and others from COVID-19 at all times. This includes proper use of face masks, social distancing, and personal hygiene. It is important to note that CDC guidelines are based on what is currently known about COVID-19 and its variants.*







**General  
Parking**

**V.I.P.  
Parking**

**V.I.P. Entrance  
1<sup>st</sup> Base Gate**

**General Entrance  
Homeplate Gates**

**Student  
Entrance  
3<sup>rd</sup> Base Gate**

**Student  
Parking**

**Granada Street**

**Lakeland Hills Blvd.**