



STUDENT COMMENCEMENT GUIDE

CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony will take place Saturday, May 9 at 2 p.m. The ceremony will last approximately two hours. RP Funding Center's Jenkins Arena, 701 W. Lime St. in Lakeland, Florida 33815.

ARRIVAL AND CHECK-IN

Graduates should park in the Orange or Red parking lot and enter through Entrance 2. Graduates must check in at Exhibit Hall West to receive their seating assignment and reader card. **Graduate check-in will open at 12:30 p.m. and close at 1:15 p.m.** Please review the attached map for clarification.

Guests and Graduates will pass through security upon entering the building and all bags will be checked. We recommend using clear bags to efficiently move through security. Graduates should minimize their personal belongings at commencement. Items such as purses, bags, or anything else that will not fit in your pockets should be left with your guests or securely locked in the trunk of your car prior to checking in. Graduates will be separated from their guests and will not be able to hand off or receive personal items once the ceremony begins.

GUEST TICKETS

All graduates receive 5 digital guest tickets. Students are responsible for distributing these tickets to their guests, along with the Guest Information Guide, prior to the ceremony. Guests must provide their unique digital ticket to be admitted into the arena. Lap-children ages 2 and younger do not need a ticket. If your tickets are lost or damaged, please contact graduation@floridapoly.edu, however, we cannot guarantee replacements as seating will be limited.

After the ceremony, graduates will be led out of the arena near Entrance 2 and will not be permitted to re-enter the building. Graduates should plan to meet their guests outside of the arena.

APPAREL

Caps and gowns can be ordered directly from [GraduationSource](#). **The deadline for orders is March 13.** Graduates must wear the approved cap and gown (and hoods for master's degree candidates 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 during 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 gowns. As you choose your clothing, consider:

- **Top:** A collared shirt, blouse, or semi-formal dress. Consider a tie if wearing a collared shirt for an extra touch.
- **Bottoms:** 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. Dress shoes, two-inch block heels, or wedges are recommended.

Cap decorations are permitted so 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.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS

If you and/or your guest(s) need ADA accommodations, please email ada@floridapoly.edu no later than April 18, 2026.

READER CARDS

Each Graduate will receive a reader card when they check in. Do not lose your reader card! The reader card must always be kept with you as it will be used to read your name before you walk across the stage.

DIPLOMA COVERS

After handing off the reader card, Graduates will receive their diploma cover. The diploma cover should be held in front of you as you pose for photos. The diploma cover is yours to take home after commencement. Diplomas will be mailed after degrees have been conferred. Additional information regarding diplomas also will be mailed to you after degree conferral.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Grad Images 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 the commencement photos from Grad Images. You will be sent a link to order your commencement photos when they become available. Visit gradimages.com to find the photos taken at the 2026 Commencement Ceremony.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Share your Florida Poly pride before, during, and after the ceremony by tagging your pics [#FLPolyGrad](https://www.facebook.com/FLPolyGrad) on Facebook, X, and Instagram.



Different by Design.



PARKING OVERVIEW

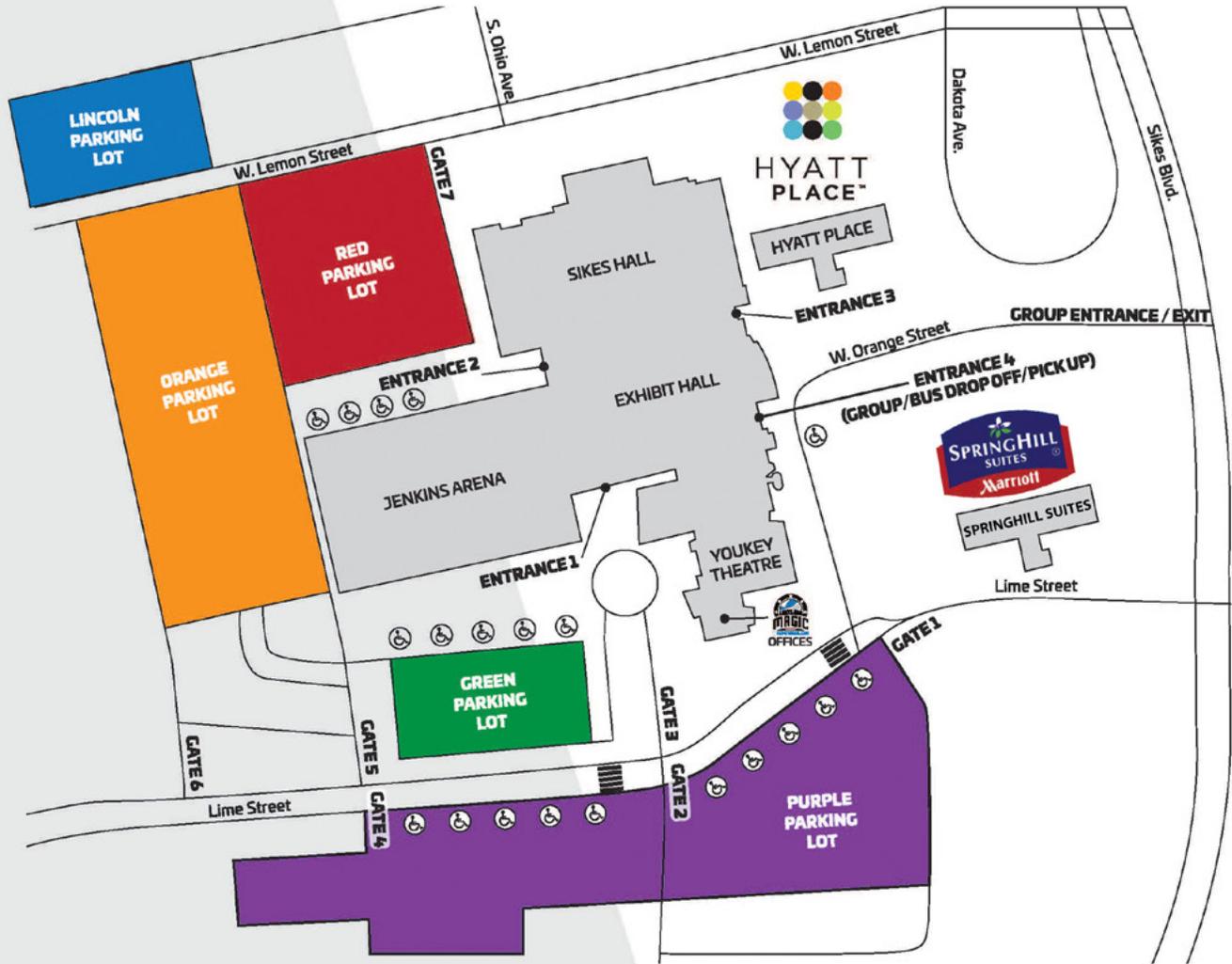
DIRECTIONS

I-4: Exit 31, travel south on Kathleen Road, turn right on West Lime Street.

POLK PKWY: Exit 4, travel north on Harden Blvd., then turn left on West Lime Street.

SOUTH: Travel north on Hwy. 37 to West Lime Street, turn left.

SOUTHEAST: I-75 N to Hwy. 60, head east to Hwy. 37, follow directions from SOUTH.



Visit RPFundingCenter.com to see how we can accommodate your event. Email us at sales@rpfundingcenter.com or call 863-834-8100 for pricing today.