

SUNY Polytechnic Institute
Utica Campus Commencement Details
Saturday, May 15, 2021 (2021 graduates) and Sunday, May 16, 2021 (2020 graduates)

Per guidance from NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH), SUNY Poly is expected to comply with specific guidance requirements related to our Commencement ceremony.

Accordingly, students are permitted to bring up to four guests. Due to the strictly enforced commencement limitations, we can offer no exceptions to the number of guests per graduate. Guests must arrive in the same vehicle. Graduates and family members should remain together the entire time you are on campus.

A live feed will be available for all guests who are unable to attend the in-person walkthrough. The [live feed can be accessed here](#).

Due to the NYSDOH limitations on in-person events, SUNY Poly is also creating a virtual commencement ceremony, which will include messages from Acting President Dr. Tod A. Laursen and the SGU President, as well as a presentation of your class gift. Interim Provost Schneider will present academic awards and honors, Acting President Laursen along with the Dean will confer degrees, and SUNY Poly Alumnus Elias Zeina will provide remarks for the traditional turning of the tassel. The 2021 virtual ceremony will go live Saturday, May 15 and the 2020 virtual ceremony will go live on Sunday, May 16. The virtual ceremony can be accessed via our [Commencement Webpage](#).

During the in-person portion of commencement, face coverings must be worn at all times by graduates and their guests.

Parking will be available in Lot C. If you require accommodations, please contact Leslie Reid at reidl@sunypoly.edu.

Please plan to arrive no more than 10-minutes prior to your scheduled walk time. As a reminder, you must arrive with your guests and in one car.

When you arrive to campus, please check-in at the welcome tent with all members of your family unit. The tent will be located at the top of the parking lot near the Student Center. (See attached map).

For the health and safety of the SUNY Poly community, if you or any member(s) of your family unit are not feeling well, please do not attend the event. A COVID-19 health screening is mandatory for all attendees. This screening will be conducted at registration, and all attendees will be required to attest that they meet the health screening conditions and do not pose a risk to others on campus. The questions below should be reviewed by everyone registered to attend the event. The graduating student will be able to sign-in for the entire group upon arrival.

A professional photographer will be on campus to take photos of each graduate as they cross the stage. The photographer will also take individual photos after graduates exit the stage; this photo area is for students and the photographer only.

Due to the limited number of attendees we can have on campus at any one time, graduates and guests will need to depart campus as soon as they complete the stage walk and photo corral. Due to the strictly enforced NYSDOH guidelines, we appreciate your understanding that we cannot allow families to linger on campus or have access to campus grounds.

In order for the event to meet the attendance limits and ensure efficient movement of graduates through the process, it is important that everyone maintain social distancing as indicated by staff, markings, or signs, follow directions of event staff, and move quickly through each stage of the ceremony. When the graduate completes the individual photograph session, the student and family are asked to move quickly back to their vehicle. Please do not stop to take additional photographs.

Health Screening Attestations:

All commencement attendees must provide contact information and pass the Mandatory Health Screening in order to enter the venue. The graduating student will be the primary contact for signing in their guests (maximum four per graduate).

By attending this commencement event, you, as an attendee or participant are affirming the following:

1. COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- a. Are you experiencing or have you (in the last 48 hours) experienced any [COVID-19 symptoms](#) that cannot be attributed to other known pre-existing medical conditions, such as allergies or migraines, that have been diagnosed by a healthcare practitioner? *In those cases, individuals should only answer "yes" if symptoms are new or worsening.*
 - Fever (100.4F or higher)
 - Chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle pain or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of smell or taste
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

2. COVID-19 CONTACTS

- a. Have you knowingly been in close contact (or proximate contact as determined by health authorities), in the last 10 days, with any person confirmed by diagnostic test, or suspected based on symptoms to have COVID-19?

3. COVID-19 POSITIVE TEST

- a. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days?

4. RECENT TRAVEL

- a. If you have traveled to NYS from a country outside the U.S. in the past 10 days, have you met all [travel requirements of CDC and NYSDOH](#)?

Anyone who cannot affirm on the day of the event that they have met the health screening criteria should not come to campus for this event. If they are already present, they should immediately return to their vehicle and leave campus as soon as possible.

Please be advised all graduates, attendees, and event staff are expected to wear face coverings during the event, practice social distancing, follow the directions on posted signage, follow the directions of event staff, leave if sick or receive positive test results, and report illness or positive COVID-19 test results IMMEDIATELY (at the Welcome tent).