



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

2022 WGU Commencement
Dallas

Saturday, February 19, 2022

#WGUgrad

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CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWL— YOU DID IT!



Welcome to the WGU Alumni Community! You're part of a family of more than 260,000 Night Owls, with special benefits that last well beyond your graduation.

BEING A GRADUATE HAS ITS BENEFITS

As a WGU graduate, you understand that learning is a lifelong pursuit. So do we. That's why we provide alumni like you with valuable benefits for continuing education. Enjoy free access to premium services like LinkedIn Learning, Pluralsight, edX, The Teaching Channel, Nurses on Boards Coalition, and more!

KEEP LEARNING at wgu.edu/alumnilearn

KEEP ADVANCING YOUR CAREER

As your focus shifts specifically to career advancement, so does the support from WGU. Our Career & Professional Development team is here to help you thrive throughout your career.

GET STARTED at wgu.edu/career-services

JOIN THE NIGHT OWL NETWORK

This exclusive network is a great way to connect with other alumni, find or become an industry mentor, join professional interest groups, discover innovative ideas from other experts in your field, or even find new jobs!

JOIN TODAY at wgu.edu/nightowlnetwork

AND THERE'S MORE

Visit our website to find other resources and ways to stay involved. Look for military alumni resources, explore discounts, see who's in the news, shop WGU merchandise, and keep an eye on other alumni events!

JOIN THE COMMUNITY at wgu.edu/alumni

WGU ALUMNI

Learn more.
wgu.edu/alumni 385.428.2085

THE FORD CENTER AT THE STAR

The Ford Center at the Star

9 Cowboys Way
Frisco, TX 75034

Schedule

Saturday, February 19, 2022

Master's Ceremony 9:30 am CST

Bachelor's Ceremony 1:45 pm CST

Tickets are not required for commencement



Venue Questions

Guests are welcome to call the Ford Center Guest Services Hotline directly at 972-497-4800 with questions.

Guest Services

On commencement day, the Ford Center's staff will be on hand to answer venue-related questions. The Guest Services Center is located on the concourse behind Section 127.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

In the event of a serious emergency at the Ford Center, all event staff, event security, police and Frisco Public Safety emergency response agencies are ready and available to assist guests, including guests with disabilities. Pertinent information regarding an emergency situation and evacuation procedures will be provided over the public address system and on the Stadium televisions and scoreboards.

EMT/First Aid

There is one (1) First Aid station at Ford Center where medical treatment is available. The Main Concourse northeast corner through double doors. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) with Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) are also positioned throughout Ford Center and ready to respond to emergencies. Guests needing medical assistance are encouraged to contact a nearby event staff or security staff member.

Guest Seating

No reserved guest seating. Seating is first come, first served. Guests should be seated with their cell phones on silent or vibrate before the graduate procession begins. Guests should remain in their seats during the entire ceremony as a courtesy to graduates and other guests. The commencement venue allows photos and videos at the ceremony; however, we ask you to take photos from your seat rather than from the aisles due to fire and safety regulations and as a courtesy to other guests. WGU has hired a professional photographer for this event. Images of each graduate and the ceremony will be available online for purchase.

Important Reminders for Guests

No smoking or chewing tobacco is allowed within the venue.

The following items are PROHIBITED: air horns, whistles, rattlers, cowbells, or other noisemakers, balloons, signs, flags, confetti, hard-sided coolers, fireworks, laser pointers, outside food and beverages, or weapons. Facility security has the right to act in any manner necessary to ensure the safety of all attendees, as well as the dignity of the event.

Infants and Young Children

For your child's comfort and as a courtesy to graduates and other guests, we encourage you to bring toys, refreshments, or other items to keep your child quietly entertained during the ceremony. Please bring restless or crying infants and children to the concourse to avoid disrupting the ceremony/broadcast. You can continue to watch the ceremony on the concourse monitors. To promote safety in close quarters, no children will be allowed on stage or to sit with graduates. By observing these guidelines, we can have a safe, enjoyable, and memorable commencement.

Strollers

Strollers are permitted at the Ford Center. However, their use cannot inhibit guest movement or block any aisles. Smaller, umbrella-style strollers can be stored underneath a seat as long as it does not create an obstruction for other guests. Larger strollers can be checked at the Guest Services Center located on the concourse behind Section 127. Please look for the signs indicating the stroller parking area.

Lost Guests/Children

Lost children and guests should be taken to the Guest Services Center located on the concourse behind Section 127. Parents looking for a lost child should be directed to the Guest Services Center. For safety reasons, we are unable to make Ford Center-wide announcements for lost children or guests.

Lost & Found Items

Throughout the course of an event, all lost items should be brought to the Guest Services Center located on the concourse behind Section 127. All guests looking to claim or report lost items should do so at the Guest Services Center. Guests inquiring about lost items at previous events should call the Guest Services Hotline at (972) 497-4800 for information, notify us via email at FordCenter@dallascowboys.net or fill out the [lost and found form](#). Items lost at prior events are held in a locked storage area for 60 days and are then either disposed of or donated to an appropriate charitable organization. Ford Center cannot be held responsible for lost or damaged items.

Masks Required

All participants and guests, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask with the exception of children under two.

BAG POLICY

FORD CENTER BAG POLICY

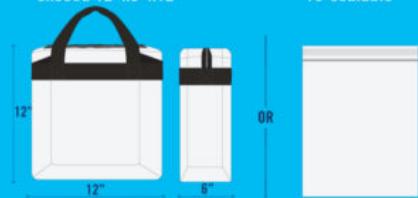
SMALLER CLUTCH SIZE

NO PURSES. CLEAR BAGS ONLY.

In an effort to enhance public safety, Ford Center has modified its security policy by limiting the size and style of bags allowed in the venue.

APPROVED BAGS

CLEAR TOTE
Plastic, vinyl or PVC and do not exceed 12"x6"x12"



SMALLER CLUTCH SIZE

Approximately the size of a hand with or without a handle or strap.
No larger than 4.5" x 6.5" with or without a handle or strap.
Can be carried separately or within an approved plastic bag.



An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at a gate designated for this purpose.
Please limit the number of items you bring to the stadium on event days.

THESTARINFRISCO.COM/BAGS

PROHIBITED BAGS

PROHIBITED ITEMS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- All purses, bags or containers larger than a small clutch bag
- Backpacks
- Binocular case
Binoculars may be worn around the neck
- Briefcases
- Camera bags
- Cinch bags
- Computer bags
- Coolers
- Diaper bags
- Fanny packs
- Luggage of any kind
- Seat Cushions



COMMENCEMENT ETIQUETTE AND DECORUM

Commencement Weekend is a memorable experience for graduates and their loved ones to celebrate their academic achievement. We want our graduates to experience a joyful ceremony that recognizes their hard work and the sacrifices they have made to reach this point. WGU believes mutually respectful participation by graduates and their guests is the best way to set the stage. In preparation for commencement, WGU has outlined the following protocols. You and your guests' adherence to the following protocol will ensure a positive experience for all.

Academic Attire for Graduates

All graduating students wear approved academic attire that includes a cap, gown, and tassel. The official regalia color is navy.

We encourage all graduates to wear comfortable, yet professional, dress attire under your gown rather than casual clothing. Master's degree graduates will need a hood specific to their degree. WGU graduates affiliated with an academic honor society may wear society pins or honor cords on their gowns. With the exception of WGU Scholarship pins, leis and corsages, graduates should not wear other items or decoration on their academic regalia.



[Video: How to Wear Bachelor's Regalia](#)

[Video: How to Wear Master's Regalia](#)

Graduates who indicate active duty military or veteran status on their ceremony RSVP form will receive military honor cords at graduate check-in.

Commencement Etiquette

To promote a respectful, comfortable, and enjoyable experience for graduates and their guests, all attendees are asked to observe the following guidelines.

- Place your cell phone on vibrate or silent during the ceremony.
- Do not leave until the entire ceremony has ended.
- Keep cheering respectful and avoid disruptive outbursts to allow the families and guests of other graduates to hear their graduates names when read.

WGU Commencement Decorum Policy

Please be advised any graduate or guest acting in a disruptive or disrespectful manner at WGU events, as determined by WGU in its sole discretion, may either not be allowed in the venue or may be escorted from the venue.

Take into consideration the following if decorating your cap for commencement: WGU does not allow content on caps that is considered, in WGU's sole discretion, obscene, vulgar, defamatory, hateful, inappropriate, profane or that might disregard another's copyright or third-party rights. All decorations must lie flat on the cap.

ADA & ACCESSIBILITY

Wheelchair Access & Escorts

Ford Center staff members are available to assist you to your seats, including providing complimentary wheelchair assistance to guests with special needs. A wheelchair escort may be requested at Guest Services or the main arena entrance. The elevator located between the escalators at the Executive Office entrance provides easy access to wheelchair seating or to the main concourse. Please be aware that Ford Center staff will not remain with you during commencement.

Passenger Drop-Off Points

The drop-off for guests with wheelchairs or those who need mobility assistance is at the entrance on Gaylord Parkway next to the Ford Center. Please look for the wheelchair drop-off/pick-up signs. (See map below)

Disabled Parking

Designated parking is available for guests with disabilities.

ASL

American Sign Language interpreting is available onsite for WGU Commencement. Please proceed to the WGU information table located on the main concourse, and you will be ushered to the reserved seating for ASL. The area is designated as reserved.

Restrooms

The Ford Center has accessible restroom facilities throughout the venue.

Service Animals

Animals or pets of any kind are not permitted in the Ford Center, with the exception of trained service animals and service animals in training for guests with disabilities. Service animals are welcome inside the venue but must remain on a leash or in a harness at all times. Service animals must display proper documentation.

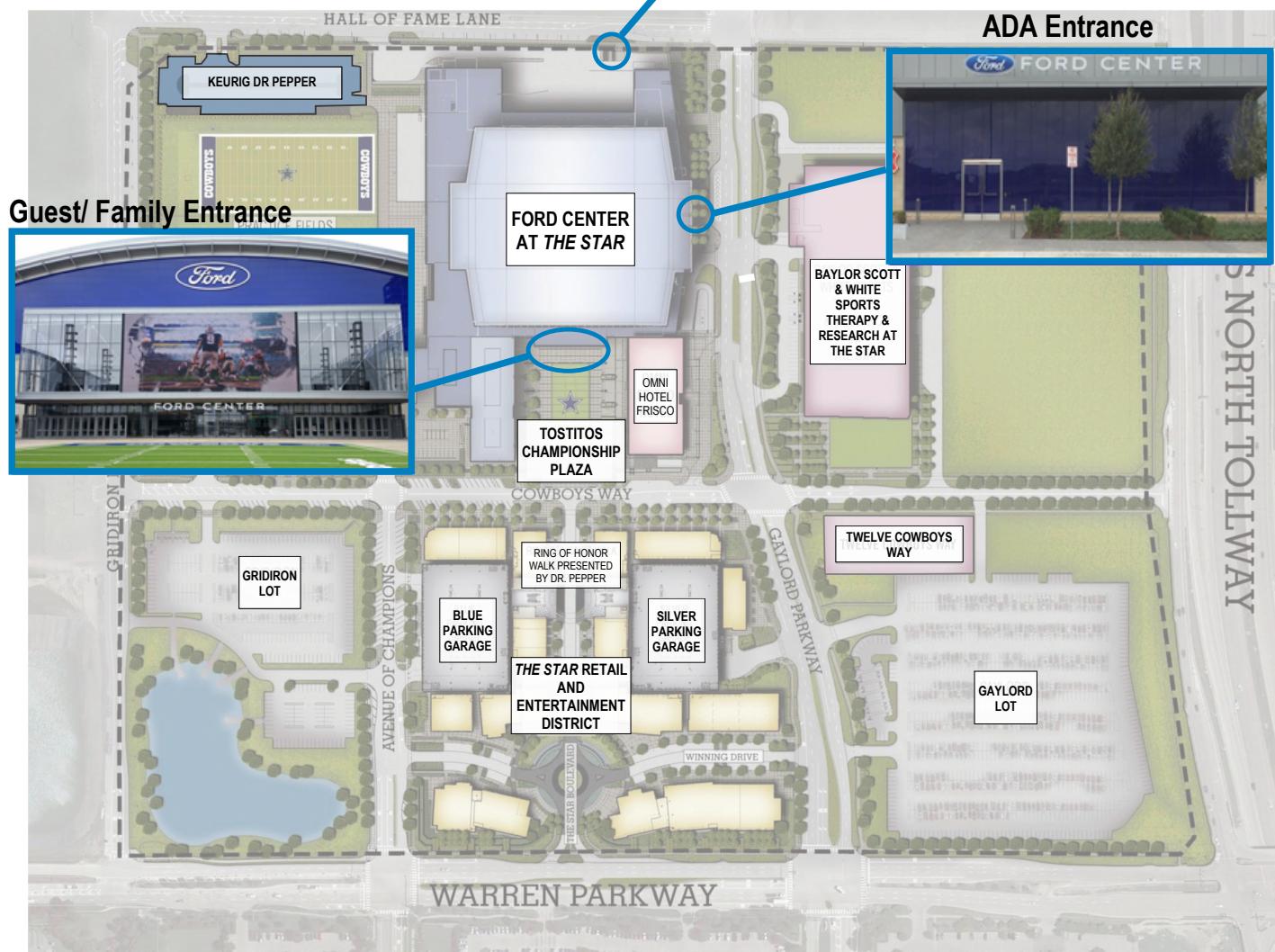
Emergency Evacuation Procedures

In the event of a serious emergency at Ford Center, all event staff, event security, police and Frisco Public Safety emergency response agencies are ready and available to assist guests, including guests with disabilities. Pertinent information regarding an emergency situation and evacuation procedures will be provided over the public address system and on the Stadium televisions and scoreboards.

ARENA ENTRANCE MAP



WGU Graduate Entrance



MASTER'S CEREMONY SCHEDULE

**Saturday, February 19, 2022
8 am CST Master's Graduate Check-in
Follow signs to Graduate Check-in**

BEFORE ARRIVING FOR COMMENCEMENT

Please eat breakfast. Wear comfortable shoes. All graduates participating in the commencement ceremony must arrive wearing full academic attire: cap with tassel, hood, and gown. Master's graduates please wear your hoods. No changing rooms on site.

Video: How to Wear Master's Regalia

8 am CST Master's Graduate Check-in

Note: Only graduates are permitted in the Graduate Check-in Area.

Please pick up your name reader card, listing your name and degree. Also located in the graduate check-in room: philanthropy cords, military cords, scholarship pins, WGU employee pins, limited regalia, and name readers.

9 am CST Lineup by College, Arena Tunnel

Master's ceremony graduates must be checked in and in their lineup area by college by 9 am. Graduates will receive a brief orientation and then be ushered to the processional march entrance. Please follow the direction of the college marshals.

9:30 am CST Commencement Processional March

The stage participants and WGU faculty will enter first. College marshals will lead graduates into the arena.

After the Ceremony

Families and guests: please plan to meet graduates outside at the main entrance.

BACHELOR'S CEREMONY SCHEDULE

**Saturday, February 19, 2022
12:30 pm CST Bachelor's Graduate Check-in
Follow signs to Graduate Check-in**

BEFORE ARRIVING FOR COMMENCEMENT

Please eat lunch. Wear comfortable shoes. All graduates participating in the commencement ceremony must arrive wearing full academic attire: cap with tassel, and gown. No changing rooms on site.

[Video: How to Wear Bachelor's Regalia](#)

12:30 pm CST Bachelor's Graduate Check-in

Note: Only graduates are permitted in the Graduate Check-in Area.

Please pick up your name reader card, listing your name and degree. Also located in the graduate check-in room: philanthropy cords, military cords, scholarship pins, WGU employee pins, limited regalia, and name readers.

1:15 pm CST Lineup by College, Arena Tunnel

Bachelor's ceremony graduates must be checked in and in their lineup area by college by 1:15 pm. Graduates will receive a brief orientation and then be ushered to the processional march entrance. Please follow the direction of the college marshals.

1:45 pm CST Commencement Processional March

The stage participants and WGU faculty will enter first. College marshals will lead graduates into the arena.

After the Ceremony

Families and guests: please plan to meet graduates outside at the main entrance.

COMMENCEMENT SEATING CHART

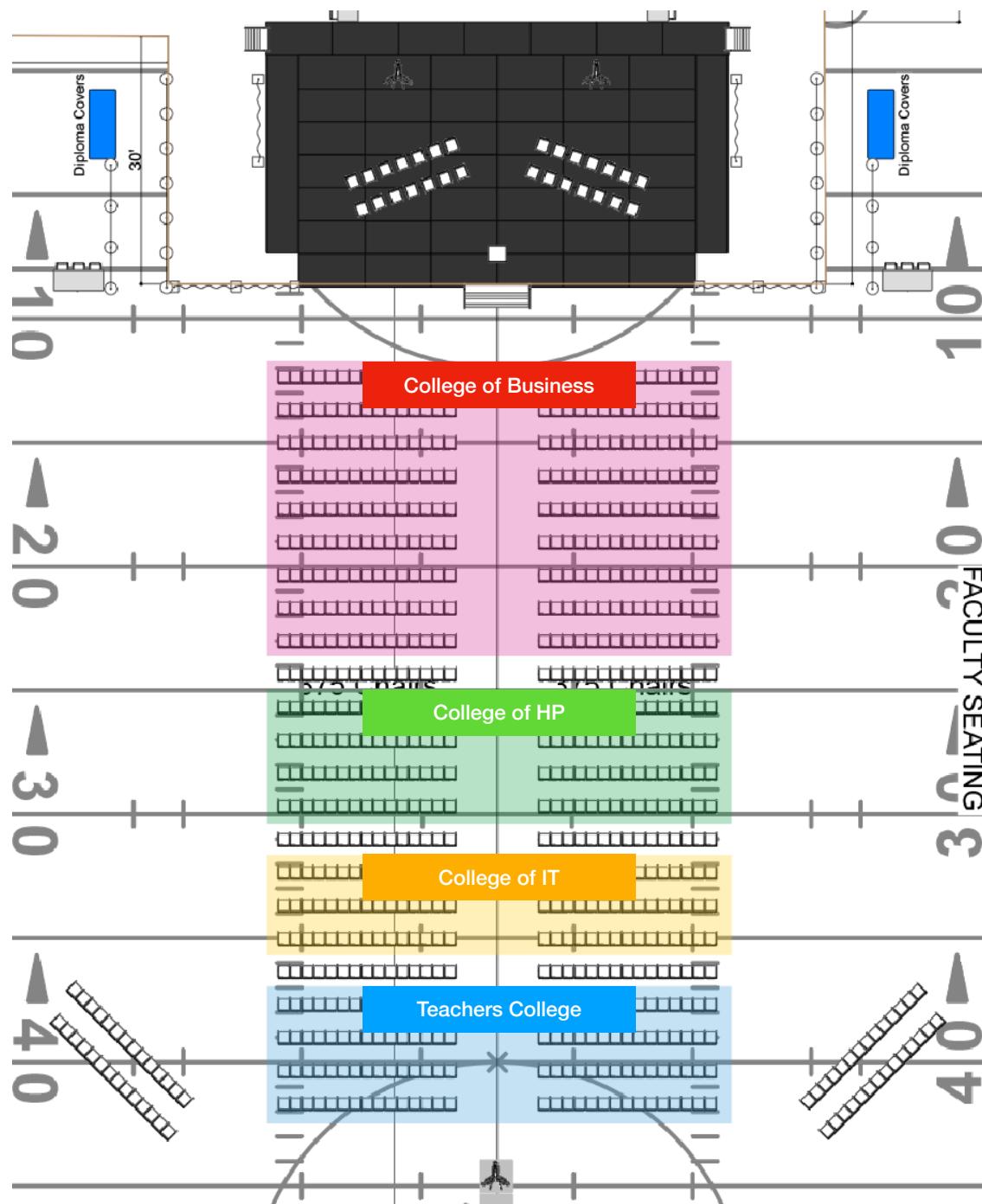
Graduate Seating

Graduates are seated by college.

Conferral of Degree Order

Graduates are called to stage by college and not in alphabetical order.

1. College of Business (BU)
2. College of Health Professions (HP)
3. College of Information Technology (IT)
4. Teachers College (TC)



NAME READER CARD

NAME READER CARD



WGU



FIRST NAME LAST NAME



WHAT IS MY NAME READER CARD?

It is the card you hand the name reader as you walk on stage to have your name announced. The QR code will be scanned to project your name on the screens as it appears on the card.

WHERE DO I PICK UP MY NAME READER CARD?

You will receive your card at check-in.

Note: If you have two last names, please be sure to visit both check-in lines.

WHAT IF MY NAME IS MISSPELLED?

During check-in, go to the card reprint table to have your name reprinted.

WHERE DO I GO AFTER I HAVE MY NAME CARD?

Wait for further instructions from the graduate lineup team. They will prepare you for the processional march.

WHAT IF I LOSE MY NAME READER CARD?

Ask the commencement team for a generic card. Your name will be handwritten and "Congratulations, WGU graduate" will be projected on the screens.

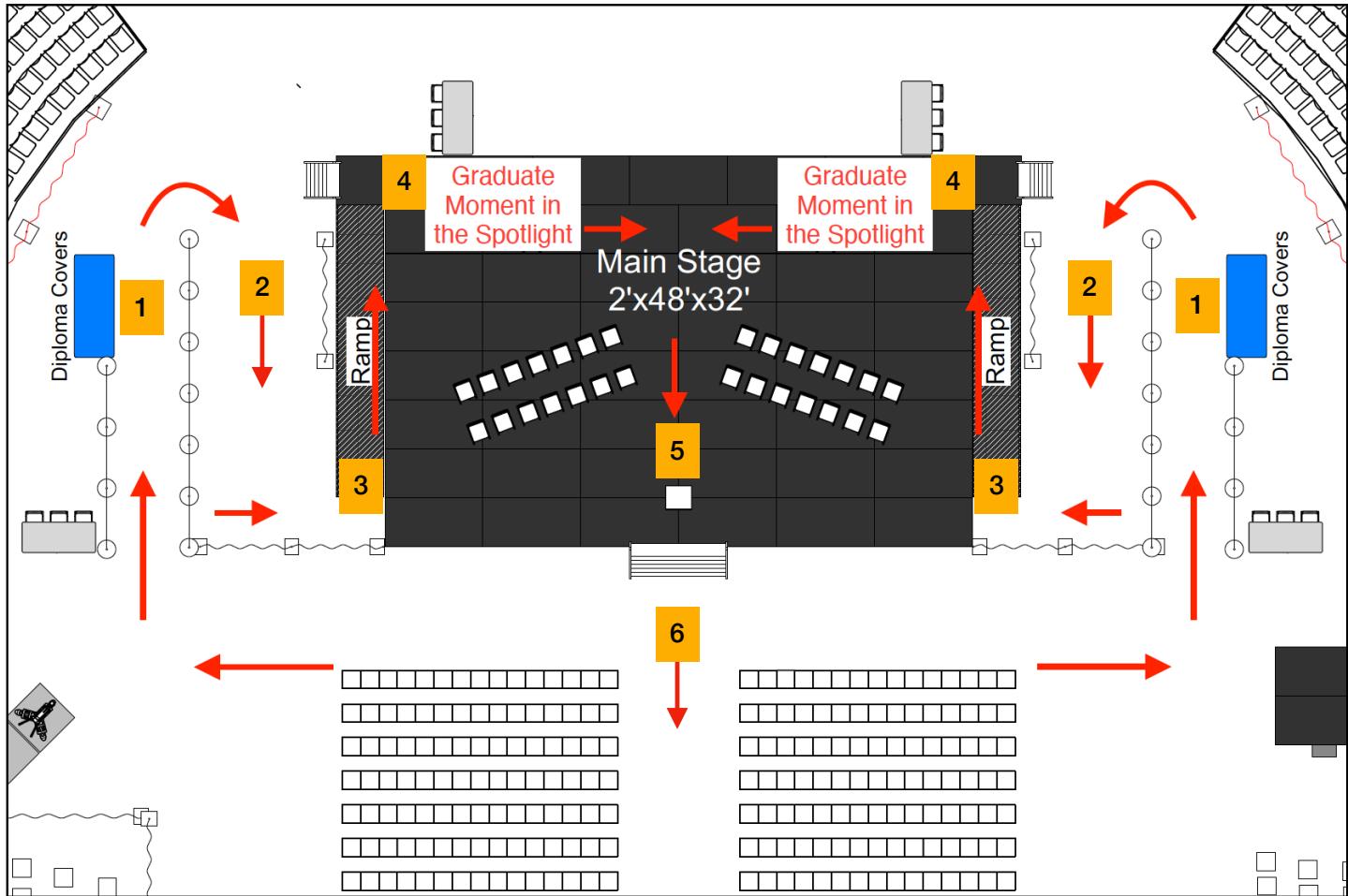
HELPFUL TIPS

- Keep your card with you until you hand it to the name reader when you walk on stage.
- Do not fold or get your card wet. Damaged cards will not scan properly.
- Avoid contact with the QR codes on your card. If the QR codes are damaged, your name will not be projected on the screens.

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

The conferral of degrees will take place in this order: College of Business, College of Health Professions, College of Information Technology, and Teachers College. Graduate names are not read in alphabetical order but by college order.

After the conferral of degree announcement, college marshals will lead graduates by college to the stage.

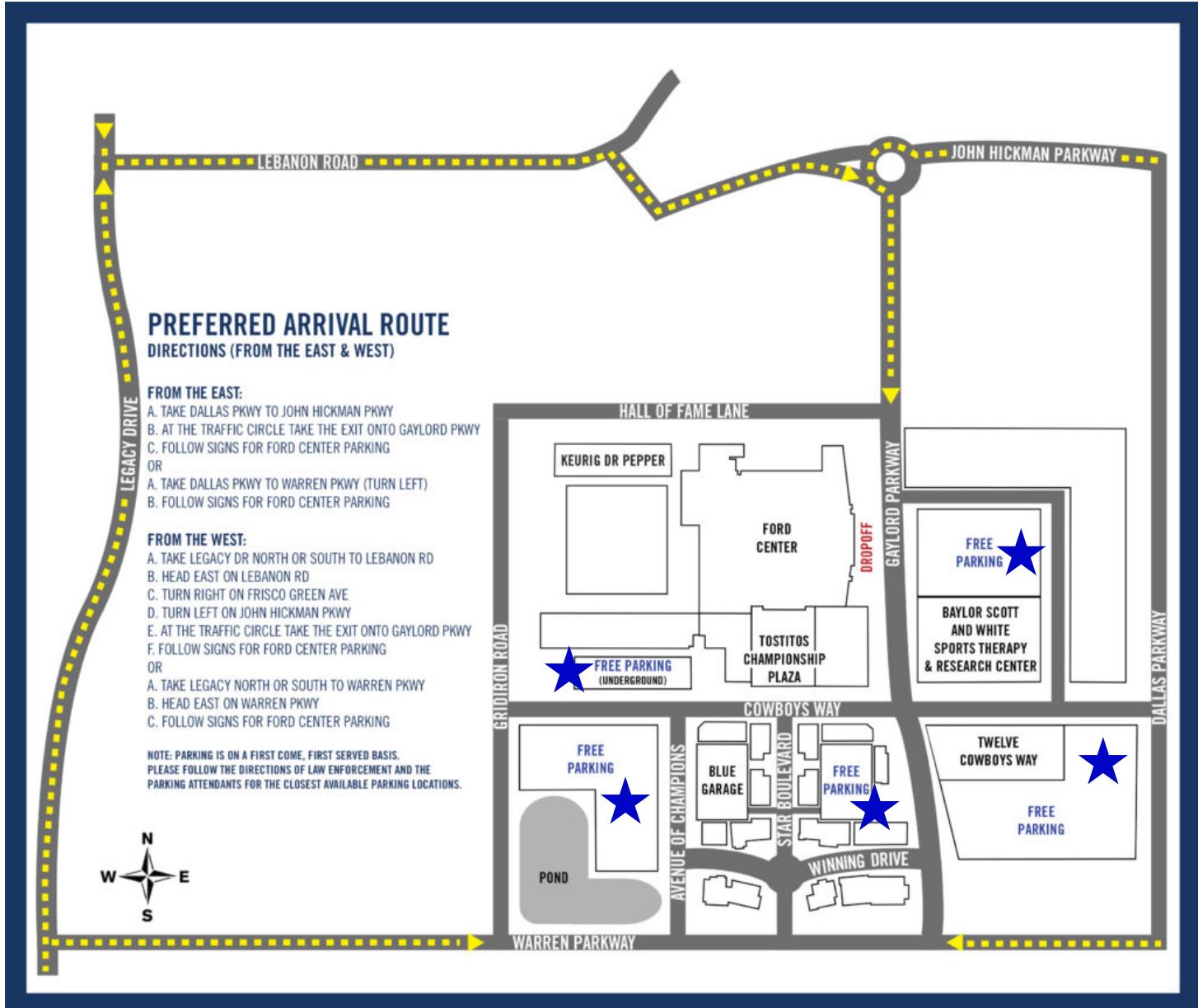


- ◆ **STEP 1** - As directed by the marshals, please proceed to the table to pick up your diploma cover.
- ◆ **STEP 2** - Proceed to the photography station for your individual photo from Lifetouch Photography. Please remove your face mask at this point for your photo.
- ◆ **STEP 3** - Hold on to your face mask and proceed up the ramp.
- ◆ **STEP 4** - Hand your name card to the WGU staff member who will direct you when to step on stage. Once you are on stage facing the camera, your name will be announced; this will be your moment in the spotlight.
- ◆ **STEP 5** - Proceed to the front of the stage and then exit.
- ◆ **STEP 6** - Please put on your face mask and return to your seat.

PARKING

Parking

Please plan ample time for parking. The Ford Center information can be found [here](#).



PHILANTHROPY CORD



You can receive a blue and gold philanthropy cord to proudly wear with your cap and gown by making a gift to the WGU Fellow Night Owl Scholarship, a fund established to help current WGU students cross the finish line to graduation.



It's not too late to make a gift and receive your cord!

Donate today and visit the WGU Advancement table to pick up your cord when you arrive at commencement.

Scan the QR Code or visit wgu.edu/philanthropycords to give now.

WGU  **ADVANCEMENT**

Learn more about WGU Advancement and how donors can make a difference at WGU by visiting wgu.edu/give.

COMMENCEMENT FLOWERS



CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE'S
ACCOMPLISHMENT WITH FLOWERS!

Pre-order online at the link below, or purchase bouquets onsite. Pre-ordered flowers will be available for pickup at the commencement flowers kiosk the day of commencement.

A percentage of each sale will be donated to the WGU Scholarship Fund.

<https://www.thecomencementgroup.com/wgumain/>



WGU

WEBCAST AND CONTACT

Webcast

Family and guests who are unable to attend in person may view the [**ceremony online**](#). To watch the ceremony live, please visit the following link on Saturday, February 19, 2022.

9:30 am CST Master's Ceremony

1:45 pm CST Bachelor's Ceremony

Click [here](#) to watch the ceremony online on commencement day.

Photography

During the WGU Commencement, The Grad Team Photography will be taking candid photos, speaker photos, and graduate portrait shots. There is no obligation to purchase.

How to access your commencement photos:

A week after commencement, Grad Team will post commencement photos online.

Visit [thegradteam.com/events/wgu](#) to view commencement photos.

Special Note:

A graduate's appearance and participation is recorded at commencement. This may include but not be limited to broadcast video, online web video, and photos in print materials. WGU may use some of these images for educational and informational purposes.

Contact

During commencement week, the most efficient way to reach the WGU Commencement Office is by sending an email to [**commencement@wgu.edu**](mailto:commencement@wgu.edu). You may also call 385-428-2085. Visit the Commencement website: [**Commencement in Dallas**](#)