

GULF HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026 YEAR-END SENIOR EVENTS

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! We are giving you the following guidelines so that graduation will be a proud memory for all graduates. While we hope it does not become necessary, diplomas may be pulled for any student not following the guidelines set forth at any point through the graduation ceremony.

ONLINE CLASSES COMPLETION

Students who took online classes must have completed **ALL** assignments and DBAs by **Friday, May 1, 2026, at 11:59PM** and exams completed by **Friday, May 8, 2025, at 11:59PM** if they intend to participate in the graduation ceremony on June 8, 2026, at 8AM.

SENIOR CHECKOUT

Senior Checkout will be held on **Tuesday, May 26, 2026, from 8:05AM – 10:55AM in the Gulf High School Gym**. Attendance is **MANDATORY** for participation in graduation. Only students who properly checkout will be able to participate in the Graduation Ceremony or receive diplomas. The administrator in charge of graduation (Mrs. Martin) **MUST** review and approve any extenuating circumstances ahead of time. This is a school day, therefore; *students must be dressed according to the Pasco County School District Dress Code. Students will be sent home to change if they are out of dress code, and this may jeopardize their participation in graduation.* At Checkout, students must be cleared at all stations **before** receiving their Cap & Gown. Stations include Grade Check, Items owed, Transcripts, and Media Return/Fees.

To help Senior Checkout run smoothly, we have assigned arrival times to the gym based on the student's last name.

A-G: 8:05AM – 8:55AM

H-N: 9:00AM – 9:45AM

O-Z: 9:50AM – 10:55AM

SENIOR BREAKFAST

All Senior students are invited to attend the annual Senior Breakfast that will be held on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026, in the Gulf High School Cafeteria at 8:00AM**. Students are encouraged to dress in school spirit or senior spirit attire. *Students must be dressed according to the Pasco County School District Dress Code.* During this event, a “Senior Slideshow” will be shared. Seniors are encouraged to upload a baby picture and Senior picture to our electronic “drop box” on our website by Friday, May 1. This event is for Senior students **only**.

GRADUATION PRACTICE

Graduation Practices will be held on **Wednesday, May 27 2026, immediately following the Senior Breakfast and Thursday, May 28, 2026, from 9:00AM – 11:00AM** in the Gulf High School Gym. Attendance on both days is **MANDATORY** for participation in graduation. Only students who properly checkout and attend both graduation practices will be able to participate in the Graduation Ceremony or receive diplomas. The administrator in charge of graduation (Mrs. Martin) **MUST** review and approve any extenuating circumstances prior to practice. *Students must be dressed according to the Pasco County School District Dress Code. Students will be sent home to change if they are out of dress code, and this may jeopardize their participation in graduation.* There is no exception to this policy. Please take this event seriously and adhere to the instructions provided. We are putting in great effort to ensure this occasion is unforgettable for you and your family.

SENIOR FIELD DAY

Senior Field Day will be held on **Thursday, May 28, 2026, from 11:00AM – 1:00PM at the Gulf High Practice Football Field**. Students participating in Field Day must remain on campus and will not be permitted to leave and re-enter.

Dress Code for Field Day: Students must wear shorts and a T-shirt with appropriate undergarments. Regular shorts and swim shorts are approved and must meet proper length to cover undergarments or swimsuit being worn underneath. Please note, T-shirts and shorts must remain on for the entire duration of the event. There is no exception to this policy.

CEREMONY (LIVE AND ONLINE VIA STREAMING)

The graduation ceremony will be held on **Monday, June 8, 2026, and will begin promptly at 8:00AM**. Seniors are to report at **7:00AM** to the University of South Florida Yuengling Center in Tampa in order to line up for the ceremony. Please follow the signs upon entering the University of South Florida Yuengling Center, as they will direct students and guests to the appropriate parking areas. Students should enter the Corral, which is to the left of Gate A or the Gate A Annex. There will be a livestream of the ceremony with the web address on the GHS and Pasco Schools website.

Shout Outs: Families of graduates may purchase a “Shout Out” to be displayed at the graduation ceremony. “Shout Outs” must be submitted and paid prior to April 17. See Website for ordering information.

GRADUATION GUIDELINES

DRESS EXPECTATIONS

Dress Code for Graduates: Dress pants and dress shirt with tie, a dress or skirt and blouse or pantsuit are recommended outfits. If wearing pants, wear matching/dark socks with dress shoes. No sneakers, flip flops, etc., are allowed. We recommend that students not wear high heels, as there will be a lot of walking and stair climbing. No visible “bulky” jewelry, scarves, ribbons, etc., are permitted.

Personal Items: Leave purses, cameras, and personal items with a parent or friend in the audience; they may not be taken in during the processional. Flowers or corsages are NOT permitted. Individually purchased cords, stoles or other graduation regalia WILL NOT be allowed during the graduation ceremony. Personal regalia need to be left with family so that they can be enjoyed/worn after the ceremony with family and friends.

Graduation Gowns: Cap and gowns were ordered through Herff Jones and were included in the graduation fees. Please carry your cap and gown into the University of South Florida Yuengling Center. We will not have extra gowns on hand. Make sure that you bring yours to the ceremony. Gowns are to look like they did when received from the company. **Nothing extra may be added to them.**

Graduation Cap: The mortarboard (graduation cap) is to be worn flat with the tassel over the right ear. Once the seniors are declared graduates, the tassel is moved to the left side in unison with the class. Mortarboards may be decorated following the guidelines posted on the website. We will not have extra caps or tassels on hand. Make sure that you bring yours to the ceremony. No exceptions.

Failure to comply with the dress policy may result in the student not being permitted to participate in the ceremony.

Security will do a visual search and wand of all of the graduates and any guests to the University of South Florida Yuengling Center.

BEHAVIOR

Graduation is a momentous occasion not only for the seniors, but also for their parents, families, and friends. For that reason, the ceremony is to be held with dignity and courtesy to others. **All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the occasion, which includes walking across the stage. All participants must comply with the Pasco County Student Code of Conduct. Inappropriate behavior will result in both students and parents/guardians having to meet with the school administration prior to receiving a diploma.**

Improper noises and distractions will not be permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, noisemakers such as bullhorns, air horns, whistles, cowbells, and firecrackers, etc. Do NOT bring in beach balls, silly string, or any item that would be deemed inappropriate. We ask that you request family and friends to remain seated throughout the ceremony, except when it is appropriate to stand (during the Pledge of Allegiance, for example), as a courtesy to other graduates and their families and friends. No one, other than graduates and designated guests, is permitted in the seating area for graduates.

Anyone under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not receive his/her diploma and/or will be turned over to appropriate law enforcement officials. As this is a School District of Pasco County event, alcohol will not be permitted inside of any of the areas in the University of South Florida Yuengling Center dedicated to the graduation ceremony.

TRAFFIC TO AND PARKING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA YUENGLING Center

Please be advised that the time of arrival for the graduation ceremony for students is 7:00AM. Please plan appropriately when leaving your homes and give yourself more than enough time to arrive without incident. Once students and staff have left for the beginning of the ceremony, students arriving late will not be permitted to enter the seating area for graduates. This is University of South Florida Yuengling's Center security policy and will be strictly enforced. **The University of South Florida charges \$13.00 for parking and must be paid by credit card.** There are parking areas throughout the campus adjacent to the University of South Florida Yuengling Center. Disabled parking is located at Gate A and Gate D, Parking Lot Area 22F.

Security And Bag Policies For USF

- No weapons of any kind, no outside food or beverage, no backpacks or large bags.
- Personal bags must be smaller than 12"x12"x12". These are subject to search upon entry.
- All cameras are permitted with the exception of professional cameras with larger lenses.

SEATING & TICKETS

Seating is unlimited in the University of South Florida Yuengling Center. Tickets will not be necessary as a result. **No one, other than graduates and designated guests, is permitted on the floor partitioned off on the University of South Florida Yuengling Center.** Floor seating is only permitted for invited dignitaries, graduating seniors, band members, faculty and staff, and other invited guests. All of these people will have tickets in order to access the floor seating area and will be listed on pre-approved lists provided to the University of South Florida Yuengling Center. No one else is permitted on the floor of the University of South Florida Yuengling Center. Those who need handicapped seating would be advised to enter Gate A, where there are elevators available. There is handicapped seating available throughout the University of South Florida Yuengling Center. There is also reserved seating for the hearing impaired. Upon entering the University of South Florida Yuengling Center, all people in attendance will be searched by security per University of South Florida Yuengling Center policy.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Gigante Productions (813-907-1078) will photograph each senior individually upon receiving his/her diploma and congratulations from the principal, as well as with their diplomas. Purchase of these photographs is optional. Gigante Productions has provided a QR Code located on our program for viewing and purchasing photos after the ceremony. All questions regarding these pictures should be directed to Gigante Productions. **Gulf High School does not receive any of these pictures or information following graduation.**

Diploma Distribution

Diplomas will be distributed by alphabet in the same way that students received their medallion prior to the ceremony. **Students who have officially checked out will be able to receive their diplomas and participate in graduation. Only students meeting the behavioral requirements at graduation will receive a diploma.**

*Upon completion of the Graduation Ceremony, please exit the University of South Florida Yuengling Center.
We recommend having a pre-arranged meeting place set with your family.*