Frequently Asked Questions

**What is an unmanned aircraft system (UAS)?**
An unmanned aircraft system is an unmanned aircraft and the equipment necessary for the safe and efficient operation of that aircraft. An unmanned aircraft is a component of a UAS. It is defined by statute as an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft (Public Law 112-95, Section 331(8)).

**Is a UAS the same as a model aircraft?**
Congress defined a "model aircraft" as a UAS that meets all of the following:
- Is capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere
- Is flown within visual line-of-sight of the person operating it
- Is flown for hobby or recreational purposes

**Is the Small UAS Rule (part 107) effective?**
Yes. The Small UAS Rule came into effect on August 29, 2016.

**Do I need approval from the university to use a UAS on or over university property or at a university-sponsored event?**
Yes. The University of Cincinnati has implemented an unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) policy to mitigate risks to individuals and organizations potentially affected by UAS operations; to comply with federal, state, and local laws, as well as regulations and contracts.

The university’s UAS policy can be found online at: [http://www.uc.edu/af/policies.html](http://www.uc.edu/af/policies.html).

The UAS policy ensures that the university has clear lines of authority and well-defined internal processes to identify, manage, and mitigate risk, and for safe and legal operation of UAS in furtherance of the university’s mission.

Please note that operation of a UAS is also regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and by federal, state, and local laws. Anyone who seeks permission from the university to operate a UAS on University of Cincinnati property or at any university-sponsored event must receive approval from all appropriate agencies (if necessary) in advance of requesting such approval.

**What should I do to obtain permission from the university to operate a UAS on university property or a university-sponsored event?**
Refer to the Guidelines for University of Cincinnati Authorization of UAS Operation.

**Who does the university’s UAS Policy apply to?**
The policy applies to faculty, staff, graduate associates, student employees, students, volunteers, vendors, and all visitors (invitees and licensees) who acquire or seek to operate a UAS on or over any university property or at any university-sponsored event.
What UAS activities are permitted under Ohio State UAS policy?
With university permission, common uses of UAS permitted on or above university property and at university-sponsored events include, but are not limited to, research, teaching, advertising, and commercial/business ventures.

What UAS activities are not permitted under University of Cincinnati UAS policy?
Generally speaking, the following activities not permitted on or above university-owned property or at a university activity include, but are not limited to:

- A UAS may not be used for hobby or recreational purposes on any and all University of Cincinnati property.

- A UAS may not be used to monitor or record activities where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy on university property or at university-sponsored events. (Examples include, but are not limited to, restrooms, locker rooms, residence halls, medical facilities, etc.)

- A UAS may not be flown in a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) area nor in “No Drone Zones” on university property or at university-sponsored events.

- Any operation of aircraft that endangers public safety – either on the ground or in the air. This is also prohibited by the FAA and violations carry very stiff federal penalties.

What is the definition of recreational or hobby use of a UAS?
Recreational or hobby UAS use is flying for enjoyment and not for work, business purposes, or for compensation or hire. In the FAA's Interpretation of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft, the FAA relied on the ordinary, dictionary definition of these terms. UAS use for hobby is a "pursuit outside one's regular occupation engaged in especially for relaxation." UAS use for recreation is "refreshment of strength and spirits after work; a means of refreshment or division."

Can I fly a UAS over a stadium or sporting events?
No. Pursuant to FAA Regulations, any and all aircraft operations are strictly prohibited beginning one hour before the scheduled time of the event until one hour after the end of the event. The prohibited area includes any and all space within 3 nautical miles up to and including 3000 feet above ground level of any stadium having a seating capacity of 30,000 or more people.