

 <p>Category: Property</p> <p>Policy applicable for: Faculty/Staff/Student/Volunteers/Third Parties</p>	<p><i>Policy Title:</i> Unmanned Aircraft (Drone) Policy</p> <p>Effective Date: 01/22/2019</p> <p>Prior Effective Date: mm/dd/yyyy</p> <p>Enabling Acts: O.R.C. 119.03, , 4561.12, 4561.15, O.A.C. 5501:1-3-01</p>	<p><i>Policy Number:</i> 6.3.2</p> <p>Policy Owner: Enterprise Risk Management</p> <p>Responsible Office(s): Enterprise Risk Management, Public Safety</p>
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PURPOSE

The following guidelines are intended to ensure the University of Cincinnati’s compliance with Federal Aviation Association (FAA) regulation relevant state law and any other applicable laws or regulations regarding unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). This policy serves to ensure compliance with the requisite laws and regulations in order to provide a safer and more secure campus. Any and all operation of a UAS on or over university property, including the use of university owned UAS, must comply with this policy.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all UAS and model aircraft; the operation by any person or vendor, including but not limited to third parties, of a UAS or model aircraft on or above university property; University of Cincinnati employees and students, and contractors operating a UAS as part of their university employment or as part of university related program; and the purchase of a UAS through University of Cincinnati accounts, grants, University of Cincinnati Foundation accounts, or any other university-related funding.

DEFINITIONS

- **Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA):** An authorization issued by the Air Traffic Organization, which is part of the FAA, to a public operator for a specific UAS operation.
- **Drone:** These are also known as or may be characterized as Unmanned Aircraft Systems. A drone means any aircraft that (1) does not carry a human operator; (2) uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift; and (3) can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely.
- **Education:** The process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially in a skill, trade, or profession.
- **Research:** A systematic investigation, including research development, testing, and evaluation that is designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge.

- **University Operations:** Relating to the routine functioning and activities of the University of Cincinnati by official university personnel.
- **University of Cincinnati Property:** Buildings, grounds, and land that are owned by the University of Cincinnati or controlled by the University of Cincinnati through any formal contractual arrangement, such as a lease.
- **Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS):** According to the FAA, a UAS is the unmanned aircraft itself and all of the associated support equipment, control stations, data links, telemetry, communications and navigation equipment, etc., necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft. FAA regulation applies to a UAS regardless of size or weight. For purposes of this policy, UAS includes model aircraft.
- **FAA Regulations:** Any and all regulations required by the Federal Aviation Administration.

PROHIBITED USE POLICY

The use of UAS on any and all university property is strictly prohibited unless:

1. The proposed flight is solely for purposes of Research, Education or University Operations; and
2. Authorization has been received from the University of Cincinnati to operate on or above campus property; and
3. All of the necessary federal, state and local approvals have been acquired; and
4. Compliance with all federal, state and local laws is met; and
5. The proposed flight does not photograph, video, or monitor in any way areas where members of the university community or members of the general public would have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

The use of UAS for hobby or recreational use on any and all University of Cincinnati property is strictly prohibited at all times. Using a UAS to take photographs or videos for personal use is considered recreational use and is prohibited.

Those who are granted authorization from the University of Cincinnati and the appropriate federal, state, and local authorities are required to operate in accordance with any and all applicable FAA and FMRA regulations, including but not limited to acquiring the appropriate 333 Exemption and notifying any necessary air traffic controllers, if the UAS will be entering restricted areas **prior** to the intended flight.

All members of the University of Cincinnati community are responsible for complying with federal, state, and local regulations regarding drone use as well as university policies and procedures.

The process for seeking authorization from the University of Cincinnati to operate a UAS on or above campus property is set forth in the Guidelines for University of Cincinnati Authorization of UAS Operation.

SPECIAL RULES FOR SPORTING EVENTS

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.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES

This policy does not apply to law enforcement operating in the scope of their official duties. Law enforcement maintains the authority to ground or suspend operations of any UAS that is not in compliance with federal, state, or local laws, this policy, or that which presents a danger to the University of Cincinnati property or community.

VIOLATIONS

Any violations of university policies will be dealt with in accordance with applicable university policies and procedures, which may include disciplinary actions up to and including termination and/or expulsion from the university.

Legal prohibitions regarding physical presence on campus/trespassing and other legal action may also be pursued against operators of UAS that are in violation of this policy.

Violations of this policy may lead to separate legal consequences, including potential criminal liability, under state and/or federal law.

LIABILITY

Fines and/or damages incurred by individuals or UAS that do not comply with this policy will not be paid by the University of Cincinnati and will be the sole responsibility of those persons involved.

The University of Cincinnati will not be held responsible for any fines and/or damage arising out of recreational use or any use in violation of this policy by employees, students or any member of the public.

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AUTHORIZED USE ONLY

For a loss or damage to a drone to be covered under the university's insurance, the University of Cincinnati must have granted the appropriate permissions **prior** to the UAS flight. The UAS must also have the appropriate federal, state and/or local approvals and/or exemptions. Finally, the UAS must be operated by employees or students as part of their university employment or as part of an authorized university related educational program.

Related links:

- [Guidelines for University of Cincinnati Authorization of UAS Operation](#)
- Federal Aviation Administration at <http://www.faa.gov/uas/>
- Know Before You Fly at <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org/>.

Contacts:

Air Care & Mobile Care	(513) 584-2273
UC Dept. of Public Safety	
• Emergency	9-1-1
• Non-Emergency	(513) 556-1111
	(513) 558-1111