

FAQs for Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

This policy covers the usage of UAS' (drones) on or over property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the University. Before submitting a UAS Use request, please be advised you may need to have certification(s) to operate a UAS, including FAA 107 Remote Pilots License. Please understand current FAA rules and regulations as it relates to UAS missions. Your request should include detailed background information, location, timing, flight planning, safety and risk, and mitigation for approval.

If you are a University unit and are looking to use a UAS in any capacity or you are seeking assistance to involve a UAS and would like to contact a VCU FAA 107 licensed pilot for consultation, please visit this [list](#). You may also visit [this map](#) to help your planning process.

Student Use

- Using a UAS as part of a class you are enrolled in:
 - The UAS Use Committee provides guidance and approval to VCU employees, which would include your instructor. He/she would need approval from the Committee for you to operate a UAS related to one of your classes.
- Using a UAS for recreational purposes (not part of a class):
 - No, you do not need approval by the UAS Use Committee. However, make sure you're operating in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and university policies.
- Using a UAS in relation to registered student activity group:
 - The UAS Use Committee provides guidance and approval to VCU employees, which would include your instructor. He/she would need approval from the Committee for you to operate a UAS related to your registered student organization.

Faculty & Staff Use

- Using a UAS in any capacity, including teaching, research, service, or hobby use on any location (including property not owned/leased/controlled by the University):
 - As a university employee you must seek approval in advance from the UAS Use Committee.
- For continual and extended use of UAS' throughout the semester please state the time periods in the UAS Use request form.
- If you have already received an approval through the UAS Use Committee and you need the same operation approved again, provide the PDF copy of your previous approval in the UAS Use request form. If the operation is different than that previously approved you will need to complete a new UAS Use request for approval.

External Entities

- If you are not a VCU student, faculty or staff, and you would like to operate a UAS over property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the university and would like to operate a UAS on/over university property for a business purpose please contact Thomas Briggs, Assistant Vice President for Safety & Risk Management at (804) 827-2440 or tbriggs4@vcu.edu srm.vcu.edu