FAQs for Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

I’m a VCU student…

…who would like to operate a UAS over property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the university related to one of my classes. Do I need approval from the UAS Use Committee?

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.

…who would like to operate a UAS over property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the university for recreational purposes and it doesn’t have anything to do with a class. Do I need approval from the UAS Use Committee?

No, you do not need approval by the UAS Use Committee. Make sure you’re operating in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and university policies.

…interested in operating a UAS as part of an independent study, which may or may not include flight over property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the university. Do I need approval from the UAS Use Committee?

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 independent study.

…who is part of a registered student organization who would like to operate a UAS in connection to that organization. Do I need approval from the UAS Use Committee?

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.

I’m a VCU faculty member…

…and would like to demonstrate UAS flight to my students, which may or may not be over property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the university. Do I need approval from the UAS Use Committee?

As a university employee you must seek approval in advance from the UAS Use Committee.
…and would like students in my class to complete an assignment that includes UAS operation, which may or may include flight over property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the university. Do I need approval from the UAS Use Committee?

Yes. Be specific about the UAS-related expectations you have for students and yourself, as well as where and when these would take place.

…who needs to operate a UAS for university use for an extended period of time, like several times over a semester. Do I need to get UAS Use Committee approval each time?

The Committee can provide extended-use approval for a given time period. Select this on the application.

…who already had UAS operation approved by the Use Committee, and I need the same operation approved again. Am I required to go through the entire process again?

No, look for the option that you have previous approval. You’ll need the PDF copy of your original approval and approval information. If the operation is different than that previously approved you will need to complete submission for a new approval.

I’m a VCU employee and would like to operate a UAS over property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the university for my own, personal purposes. Is this OK?

As a university employee you must seek approval for such operation in advance from the UAS Use Committee.

I’m not a VCU student and I don’t work for VCU, and I would like to operate a UAS over property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the university. Do I need approval from the UAS Use Committee?

If you are a third party vendor who would like to operate a UAS over university property for a business purpose please contact the individual listed on the website.