

FAQs for Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems

This policy covers the usage of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) (i.e., 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 and understand current Federal Aviation Administration 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.

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 includes your instructor. They 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. They 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 complete the UAS Vendor/Contractor Request. [Vendor/Contractor Request](#)