



## USE OF UNMANNED AND REMOTE CONTROL AIRCRAFT VEHICLES POLICY

Area:	University Wide	Number:	RI_901
Applies to:	All Faculty, Staff, Students, Contractors	Issued:	September 5, 2014
Sources:	Federal Aviation Administration; Academy of Model Aeronautics	Revised:	March 19, 2020
Policy Owner:	Vice-Provost for Research and Scholarship	Reviewed:	
		Page(s):	3

### I. Purpose

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) stipulates that unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) must be flown in accordance with 14 CFR 107 or under an approved Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA). This includes, but is not limited to, the use of UAS for education, research, maintenance, marketing and communication. The FAA does not extend any sort of hobby or recreational use exemption or allowance to a public university to operate unmanned aircraft for any purpose.

This policy applies to the operation of all UAS by any Georgia Southern University (GS) faculty, staff and students on behalf of GS education, research or operation on and off campus.

### II. Policy Statement

The operation of unmanned aircraft systems including drones and model aircraft is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and relevant state law. Georgia Southern University (GS) will establish and enforce procedures required to ensure compliance with those legal obligations and to reduce risks to safety, security and privacy. Procedures may be accessed at <http://research.georgiasouthern.edu/researchintegrity/uasdrones/>

- Purchasing
  - All UAS purchases and flights must conform to current GS UAS procedure.
  - No UAS may be purchased without approval through the GS UAS registration system. The purchaser must have a pilot with a valid FAA certificate available to fly the purchased UAS. A copy of the certificate should be included in purchase documentation.
  - All UAS purchased with university funds or flown by university personnel must display a current FAA tail number. GS owned UAS must be registered through the GS FAA account.
- Flight Requests
  - A no-fly zone is established for all Georgia Southern University property for unmanned aerial systems (UAS) that are privately or commercially operated for any purpose, including but not limited to hobby and recreational use. UAS flights undertaken for a legitimate university purpose must follow the current procedure to request flight approval.
  - Any person requesting to fly a UAS on behalf of GS for any purpose or on GS controlled property must possess a current FAA part 107

certificate to fly.

- Any person requesting to fly a UAS on Georgia Southern University controlled property must report flights to the GS Chief Pilot and receive approval from the authorized GS official as identified in the procedures.
- Any person intending to fly a UAS on behalf of GS on third party property must obtain permission of the property owner and appropriate airspace clearance.
- All third party flight requests for flights over GS property or at GS events must be reported to the GS Chief Pilot and approved by the Authorized GS official. Third party pilots must maintain current FAA Part 107 certification, training, UAS registration and meet university requirements for liability insurance.
- The GS Chief Pilot will have authority to review, approve or deny proposed flights on the basis of flight operations, compliance and safety. The university administration may disapprove any flight plan for any reason but may not approve a flight plan rejected by the Chief Pilot.
- All waivers from the FAA part 107 flight requirements must be reported to the Chief Pilot.
- Licensing
  - All GS UAS pilots must complete FAA required training/certification procedures prior to flying UAS for any GS purpose.
  - The flight pilot will be responsible for assuring training and orientation for the observers.
  - All UAS pilots (faculty, staff or student) who fly GS equipment or on a GS project must be under the control of a GS faculty or staff member who maintains a current part 107 certificate. Student pilots will be under the authority and control of a GS faculty or staff member with current part 107 certification.
  - All UAS pilots (faculty, staff or student) who fly GS equipment or on a GS project must pass a GS test flight to demonstrate basic competency. Test flights will be conducted by the GS pilot prior to the first flight.
- Privacy
  - The use of imaging technology for aerial surveillance with UAS having the capability of obtaining high-resolution photographs and/or video, or using any types of sensors, for the collection, retention, or dissemination of surveillance data or information on individuals, homes, dorms, businesses, or property at locations where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy is strictly prohibited unless written expressed permission is obtained from the individual property owners or managers.

### III. Definitions

**UAS/UAV:** Unmanned Aircraft System/Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle including but not limited to quadcopters, “drones”, airplanes, helicopters, rockets, blimps and other unspecified vehicles flown by radio control, computer control, free flight, or control line weighing greater than .55lbs.

**Unmanned Aircraft system:** Unmanned aircraft (UA) and all of the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, communications and navigation equipment, etc., necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft.

**Model Aircraft:** Model aircraft are defined by the purpose of flight rather than the particular configuration of the aircraft. Essential to the model aircraft operation is that the aircraft is operated for recreational or hobby purposes and the flight follows the requirements of Section 336 of Public Law 112-95.

**GS Flights:** GS UAS flights shall include flights using GS purchased equipment on or off campus and/or flights undertaken by GS personnel or students on behalf of GS, using GS owned equipment or personal equipment.

**No-Fly-Zone:** A designated area where the operation of UAS is prohibited by the university or another entity.

**Chief Pilot:** GS designated employee responsible for the overall flight safety and Federal Aviation Administration compliance for the University.

**Pilot in Command:** individual ultimately responsible for the operation and safety during a flight. The pilot in command is responsible for assuring flight equipment is up to date and safe to fly during all phases of flight planning and execution.

**Small Scale UAS:** UAS/UAV weighing more than .55lbs (250 g) but less than 55lbs (25 kg) intended for outdoor flight.

**Use (Education):** Student use of unmanned aircraft vehicles as a component of science, technology and aviation-related and other coursework in the furtherance of receiving instruction at Georgia Southern University. (Note: Education use does not include participation of students in faculty scholarship or research.)

**Use (Hobby):** Georgia Southern University students and affiliates utilizing unmanned aircraft systems for personal, recreational purposes in accordance with FAA Modernization and Reform Act Section 336 without compensation or intangible remuneration.

**Use (Institutional Support Purposes):** UAS use by GS University Faculty or Staff for the purpose of facilitating maintenance of GS facilities or furthering and communicating the GS mission.

**Use (Research):** UAS use by GS University Faculty or Staff in the pursuit of scholarship or inquiry regardless of sponsorship. Students engaged in such activities must be under the direction of a responsible GS faculty or staff member.

## **V. Enforcement**

Persons in violation of this policy are subject to disciplinary action by the University including revocation of the operator's permission to pilot, assessed operator fines and termination of employment. Violation of FAA regulations is subject to federal prosecution and fines.

## **VI. References**

FAA UAS (<http://www.faa.gov/uas/>).

FAA Memo, 5/5/2016, Educational Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)