

The University of Mississippi

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

Summary/Purpose: This policy establishes general guidelines for the operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) on the Oxford campus to ensure compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations (specifically the FAA's Small Unmanned Aircraft Regulations Part 107) and for the purpose of safety and security. In addition, the policy also defines the limitation and use and the enforcement of other related university policies and procedures.

General

Under this policy, UAS are considered to be powered, remote-controlled, unmanned aircraft weighing more than 0.55 pounds, which include drones, quad copters, and motorized model aircraft. UAS must be conducted in accordance with any FAA regulations applicable to the operation as well as the following University guidelines.

Any individual operating a UAS over University property must comply with the following:

- UAS use will be restricted to educational/research and business purposes only and subject to University guidelines and FAA regulations. The use of UAS for hobby or recreational use on the Oxford campus is not permitted.
- For purposes of this policy, student researcher operators (SROs) are required to comply with the FAA's educational/recreational rules, while faculty researchers and staff (as well as commercially owned operators) are bound by the work/business rules set forth by the FAA in Part 107.
- Application must be made to the Emergency Management Services Department of the University for permission to fly the UAS over University property. This must be done at least 48 hours in advance of the proposed date/time of the flight. The written request and all required information must be submitted at time of application. Incomplete applications will not be processed. This permission may be withdrawn at any time for failure to abide by this policy or by any law governing the use of UAS. Applications are available on the University Emergency Management website or at the University Police Department.
- UAS pilots who have been initially approved to fly as faculty researchers and staff once, will be eligible for expedited approval for future flights providing no other security restrictions/concerns are in effect at the time of requested flight. Same day approval can be requested via the link provided on the University Emergency Management website. Commercially owned (contract) operators are not eligible for expedited approval.
- Written permission to access restricted airspace must also be obtained from the University-Oxford Airport for flight clearance on the date/time of anticipated flight. This must be included as part of the application process stated above.

- A commercially owned (contract) operator shall also provide proof of commercial general liability insurance coverage with a minimum limit per occurrence of \$1,000,000 and a minimum general aggregate of \$2,000,000.
- A commercially owned (contract) operator must be accompanied by a representative of the University at all times during flight operations.
- All operation and use of UAS on or above University property must comply with FAA regulations and local, state, and federal laws regarding use of UAS. Any operation or use of UAS that violates such regulations or laws is prohibited. It is the responsibility of the operator of the UAS to ensure that all relevant laws and regulations are adhered to during operation of the UAS.
- The UAS must be registered with the FAA, the registration number must be clearly visible on the aircraft, and must match the registration number given on the request for permission to fly application.
- Unsafe operation of any UAS will result in revocation of flight privileges - safety should be the top priority with every flight.

Current FAA Rules for Operating UAS/U of M Classifications

	Student Researcher Operator	Faculty Researchers/Business
Pilot Requirements	Be 13 years old	Must have Remote Pilot Airman Certificate Be 16 years old Must pass TSA vetting
Aircraft Requirements	Must be registered if > .55 lbs.	Aircraft < 55 pounds Must be registered
Operating Rules	Must yield right of way to manned aircraft Must keep aircraft in sight UAS must be < 55 lbs. Must follow community-based safety guidelines Must notify airport and air traffic control tower before flying within 5 miles of an airport	Class G airspace* Must keep aircraft in sight* Must fly under 400 ft.* Must fly during the day* Must fly at or below 100 mph* Must yield right of way to manned aircraft* Must not fly over people* Must not fly from moving vehicle*

FAA Regulations effective August 31, 2016

***All of these rules subject to waiver with proper FAA application in advance of flight.**

Process can take more than 90 days and is completed online at

https://www.faa.gov/uas/request_waiver/.

Prohibited Uses

Individuals operating UAS over University property may NOT:

- UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, shall not interfere with any educational activity on campus.
- UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, shall not be flown over any crowd, including, but not limited to, The Grove on game days, or any outdoor concerts, commencement, or any other activities of mass assembly.
- UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, shall not be used to monitor or record an area where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy in accordance with accepted social norms. These areas include, but are not limited to, restrooms, locker rooms, individual residential rooms, changing or dressing rooms, and health treatment rooms.
- UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, shall not be used to monitor or record residential halls, medical facilities, or the outsides or insides of campus daycare facilities or where minors may be present (e.g. camps).
- UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, shall not be used to monitor or record sensitive institutional or personal information that may be found in offices, computers, or laboratories.

Athletic Provisions

- In order to promote safety, privacy, and fair competition, all operators of UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, are prohibited from flying on or above any Ole Miss intercollegiate athletic facility, unless otherwise authorized by the Athletic Department. UAS, including small UAS and model aircrafts, are also prohibited from monitoring or recording any Ole Miss intercollegiate athletic facility, unless otherwise authorized by the Athletic Department. Ole Miss intercollegiate athletic facilities include Vaught-Hemingway Stadium, The Pavilion, Tad Coliseum, Ole Miss Track and Field Complex, Manning Center, Tuohy Basketball Center, Swayze Field, Ole Miss Softball Complex, Ole Miss Soccer Stadium, Palmer/Salloum Tennis Center, Gillom Sports Center, University Golf Course, Patricia C. Lamar National Guard Readiness Center, Starnes Athletic Training Center, and athletic indoor and outdoor practice fields and training facilities.
- Pursuant to an FAA "notice to airmen" (NOTAM), UAS are prohibited within a 3 nautical mile radius (NMR) up to and including 3000 feet above ground level (AGL) of Vaught-Hemingway Stadium beginning an hour before the scheduled kick-off time of a football game until one hour after the end of the football game.

- Flights conducted for operational purposes or venue or broadcast coverage of a football game at Vaught-Hemingway Stadium are permitted if the flights are conducted in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, as well as FAA regulations and University policies - including those set forth within this policy.
- The restrictions described above do not apply to those aircraft authorized by and in contact with air traffic control for operational or safety of flight purposes, Department of Defense, law enforcement, and air ambulance flight operations, Fire and Rescue, and EMA.

Enforcement and Penalties

- Persons who are on campus and/or operating a UAS on or above campus and are in violation of University policy are trespassers and may be dealt with accordingly, including, but not limited to, being removed from campus and receiving a written directive to remain off campus. Contractors and vendors are expected to comply with this policy and contract terms.
- Student violations may be addressed in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct/M Book as well as other applicable policies and may include sanctions, up to and including expulsion.
- Employee violations may be resolved in accordance with University policies, up to and including termination.
- Violators of local, state, and federal laws and regulations may be dealt with by appropriate law enforcement and other agencies.

Definitions:

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) - UAS are also known as or may be characterized as Drones. According to the FAA, a UAS is the unmanned aircraft and all of the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, communications and navigation equipment, etc., necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft. UAS may have a variety of names including quadcopter, quadrotor, etc. FAA regulation applies to UAS regardless of size or weight. Model aircraft are not considered by the FAA as UAS and have different regulations.

Model Aircraft - Model aircraft are considered differently by the FAA than other UAS and have different regulations. Model aircraft are not for business purposes, only for hobby and recreation. (Use of UAS related to the University of Mississippi does not qualify as model aircraft regulations.) Model aircraft must be kept within visual sightline of the operator, and should weigh under 55 pounds unless certified by an aeromodeling community-based organization. Model aircraft must be flown a sufficient distance from populated areas.

Student Researcher Operators: Students currently enrolled in a specific related course and under the supervision of faculty who will be operating UAS as part of their course requirements. This includes Student Media Center students affiliated with *The Daily Mississippian* and *NewsWatch* under the direct supervision of University faculty/staff.

Small Unmanned Aircraft Regulations (Part 107): The FAA's rules for non-hobbyist small unmanned aircraft (UAS) operations that cover a broad spectrum of commercial uses for drones weighing less than 55 pounds. Summary of the new rule can be found at https://www.faa.gov/uas/media/Part_107_Summary.pdf.