

Union College Unmanned AirCraft Systems (UAS) Policy

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) are regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). A UAS includes the unmanned aircraft, as well as the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, communications, and navigation equipment that are necessary to operate the device. UAS may have a variety of names including drone, quadcopter, quadroter, etc.. FAA regulations apply to UAS regardless of size or weight. Model Aircraft are not considered by the FAA, as UAS and have different regulations.

This policy applies to the Union College (College) community, which includes students, employees and visitors to campus. The College regulates Unmanned AirCraft Systems (UAS) flights to ensure they are conducted properly in a manner that fully meets institutional, legal, public safety and ethical requirements.

Adherence to this policy is required for the use of UAS on College-owned property, which is defined as any property owned, leased, licensed, or otherwise controlled by the College, including, but not limited to, any “air rights” recognized by federal or state law.

The College will only approve a UAS flight on College-owned property for College related business. UAS use related to academic research or projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be presented by a Faculty or Staff member. **Recreational use of UAS is not permitted on College-owned property.**

The Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance (VPAF) provides guidance to the College community on the use of a UAS for College-related business. The guidelines and approvals required for UAS flights on College-owned property depend on the purpose of the flight and category of the operator.

Prior to requesting permission to operate a UAS on College-owned property, applicants must follow all requirements provided in the small UAS Rule, [14 CFR Part 107](#).

Third party operators must provide proof of FAA certification and evidence of aircraft liability insurance, and must be under a contract that holds the College harmless from any resulting claims, harm to individuals or damage to College property.

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Proposed UAS flights must be reviewed by providing a [flight request form](#) to one of the following areas at least 2 weeks in advance of the propose flight date:

- The VPAF for academic/research use;
- Vice President of Communications for all non- academic/research purposes, including the use of third party operators;
- The Director of Athletics, for use of a UAS at an athletic event.

All approved drone flights must comply with current federal, state, local regulations and College guidelines. This includes the FAA [Drones guidelines](#) and [Remote Identification](#). Remote ID is the ability of the drone to provide identification and location information that can be received by other parties through a broadcast signal while in flight.

The College Campus Safety office must be provided with the flight schedule form at least one week in advance. A Campus Safety Officer must be present for the duration of the flight. Cost for this service is the responsibility of the user or user's department.

If the flight path will fly over people, the [operation of UAS over people rule](#) must be followed, and the operation must be compliant with [Remote ID](#).

If you intend to fly at night, you will need to certify that your UAS meets the [FAA night authorizations](#) requirements.