

Interim Policy for use of UAS

OSU supported activities and commercial activities

The operation of UAS is regulated primarily by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Oregon State University is working within our community to create formal policies and establish procedures to ensure compliance with FAA and other legal obligations and address concerns on safety, security, and privacy while supporting use of UAS technology in the furtherance of OSU's educational, research, and land grant missions. This document will act as and serves as the interim policy until replaced.

OSU faculty, staff and students wanting to use an unmanned aircraft system (UAS), commonly called a "drone") for anything other than recreational purposes must obtain approval from the OSU Research Office before operating the UAS. UAS use for recreational purposes does not require approval.

Recreational use does not include any OSU activity including but not limited to: research, teaching, classroom activities, facilities management, media, and promotions. Such OSU "outdoor" activities require approval prior to operation, regardless of where the OSU activities occur. Activities conducted in an enclosed area (gym, classroom, etc.) are not in the National Airspace and do not need prior approval.

Any commercial UAS operations that occurs at or above OSU controlled property, regardless of the affiliation of the operator, must obtain approval from the OSU Research Office before operating the UAS. OSU's Research office is the only OSU organization officially approved and responsible for all FAA authorizations. (Note: The FAA has defined commercial operation in terms of whether the operator receives direct or indirect payment, of any kind, for the operation.)

For information on FAA required authorizations: <https://www.faa.gov/uas/faq/>

OSU will support approved flights through the Research Office using multiple options to coordinate flight operations for the OSU community, while formal policy and processes are developing.

Contact the Research Office for:

1. Support with UAS flight needs that are for an OSU activity (including but not limited to: research, teaching, classroom activities, facilities management, media, and promotions).
2. OSU's preferred platforms will be 3d Robotics and DJI systems. If you plan to purchase other types of aircraft, please work with the research office prior to purchase to ensure proper SOPs can be developed to support flight in the National Airspace.
3. Guidance on training and options to use available sensors and existing UAS platforms.

More information and procedures are available at:

<http://research.oregonstate.edu/unmanned-systems-initiative>

Sanctions

Any violations of this policy will be dealt with in accordance with applicable OSU policies and procedures. Violations may subject an individual to institutional disciplinary proceedings, an order to leave the immediate premises or property owned or controlled by OSU by a person in charge of OSU property, or both.

Legal prohibitions regarding physical presence on campus, trespassing, and other legal action may also be pursued against individuals and organizations that operate UAS in violation of this policy.

Fines or damages incurred by individuals that do not comply with this policy will not be paid by OSU and will be the responsibility of those persons involved.

Contact

Contact the Office of Research Integrity at 541-737-0647 or email mark.peters@oregonstate.edu for information on how to coordinate with the research office for any UAS operations and approvals before using UAS for OSU activities.