

Policy Title: Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones and Model Aircraft)

Policy Category: University Policy

Policy Owner: Director, Risk and Insurance

Review Period: Every One (1) Year

Effective Date:

Policy Homepage:

Resources and Related University Policies:

Policy Summary

This policy addresses the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) commonly referred to as “drones” on the Drake campus.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Drake University complies with FAA requirements, state law, and any other locally applicable laws or regulations regarding unmanned aircraft systems. Inherent risks in the operation of such equipment require additional insurance provisions and policy considerations.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- Drake University employees and students operating unmanned aircraft systems in any location as part of their University employment or as part of University activities;
- The operation by any person or entity of UAS or model aircraft on or above Drake University property, and;
- The purchase of unmanned aircraft systems with funding through Drake University, including university accounts, grants, or foundation accounts.

Definitions

University Property – Buildings, grounds, and land that are owned by Drake University or controlled by Drake University via leases or other formal contractual arrangements. This includes the airspace above such property.

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 treated separately by the FAA from other UAS and are subject to different regulations and guidelines. Model aircraft are not used for any business purposes, only for hobby and recreation.

Policy

The operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), including drones and model aircraft, is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and other relevant federal, state, and local laws, regulations, rules, and ordinances. Drake University will establish procedures intended to facilitate compliance with those legal obligations and to reduce risks to safety, security and privacy. Except as otherwise expressly permitted by this Policy, operation of any UAS on or above University Property is prohibited.

Any University employee or student wishing to operate a UAS or model aircraft as part of a University program must obtain prior written authorization from the University's Office of Risk and Insurance, and, if planning to fly at any Drake University sporting event, the Department of Athletics.

Any third party or hobbyist operator wishing to operate a UAS or model aircraft on or over University property must receive prior written authorization from the University's Office of Risk and Insurance. Operators of any UAS must furnish the University with valid copies of all required FAA permits and any other permits required by federal, state, or local law, rule, regulation, or ordinance.

Drake may require certain preconditions to authorization, including but not limited to requiring particular insurance coverages and the execution of a release of claims. Appropriate and Prohibited Uses

- UAS shall not be used to monitor or record areas 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 shall not be used to monitor or record residential hallways, residential lounges, or the insides of campus buildings.
- UAS shall not be used to monitor or record sensitive institutional or personal information which may be found, for example, on an individual's workspaces, on computer or other electronic displays.
- UAS shall not cause any obstructions in the pathways of aircraft in flight or in any way constitute a hazard to any aircraft or to the health, safety, and general welfare of the occupants of the aircraft and the underlying land.

Fines or damages incurred by individuals or units that do not comply with this policy will not be paid by Drake University and shall be the sole responsibility of those persons responsible..

Policy History

Adopted