



USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS/DRONES
AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
[INTERIM POLICY] #500.001

INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE:	LAST REVISION DATE:	RESPONSIBLE UNIVERSITY DIVISION/DEPARTMENT
February 20, 2025	February 20, 2025	Interim Oversight of this Policy by the "Drone Assessment Team" (comprised of representatives from the Office of Compliance, the Office of General Counsel, Information Technology, and ORED)

POLICY STATEMENT

University supports and encourages the use of innovative technology in research and education. Unmanned aircraft systems ("UAS" or "drones") represent a rapidly growing industry, creating unique educational, research, commercial and recreational opportunities for faculty, students, and the broader campus community. This policy attempts to reduce the risks to safety, security and privacy as related to the operation of UAS/Drones on University property or for University Business.

Any use of a UAS/Drone by *any person* on University property, or inside a building on University property, is strictly prohibited without prior written authorization by the University. If the UAS is operated by an Invitee pursuant to an authorization under this Policy, the Invitee shall be accompanied by a representative of the University at all times. The Application for Authorization by the Invitee shall also be signed by the University Department responsible for the Invitee while on campus. Use of a University approved UAS/Drone by University Personnel in furtherance of research activities off-site of University property is subject to review and approvals of the off-site facility/entity owner.

Any purchase, acquisition or use of a UAS by *any University Personnel* in any location for University Business, is strictly prohibited without prior written authorization by the University. University Personnel are prohibited from purchasing, acquiring or using a drone/UAS or any related services or equipment produced by a manufacturer domiciled in, or produced by a manufacturer owned or controlled (in whole or in part), by a Foreign Country of Concern (FCC) with very limited Research-related exceptions (that must be pre-approved).

All authorized UAS/Drone-related operations shall be in accordance with all federal, state, and local rules and regulations, including all applicable FAA regulations. All authorized UAS/Drone operations shall also be in strict adherence to all applicable University policies,



including but not limited to policies that promote the safety, security and privacy of University personnel.

Any violations of law or violations of this policy may subject individual(s) to criminal and/or disciplinary action, as applicable, and failure to comply with FAA regulations pertaining to UAS may result in civil or criminal penalties under federal law. Fines or damages incurred by individuals or units that do not comply with this policy will not be paid by the University and will be the responsibility of those individual(s) involved.

SCOPE

This policy governs: a) the operation of a UAS)/Drone by *any person* on or within University Property; and b) the purchase, acquisition or use of a UAS/Drone or drone related service or equipment by *any University Personnel* in any location as part of their University employment or as part of University activities. Any operation/usage of a UAS/Drone by a law enforcement agency that is in accordance with Florida State law is exempted from this policy's approval process. The FIUPD is still required to obtain approval for the purchase or acquisition of UAS/Drones pursuant to this policy and to comply with all applicable federal laws and regulations.

REASON FOR POLICY

The policy establishes the approval process and procedures for safe and responsible operation of UAS in compliance with all applicable laws, including FAA requirements, state law, and local laws or regulations. It requires compliance with the University's policies and procedures relating to export control and trade sanctions, and promotes the safety, security and privacy of the members of the University community. It further safeguards individuals' privacy, civil rights and liberties pertaining to the subject matter of the policy.

DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITIONS
Unmanned Aircraft Systems	("UAS" or "Drones") means an unmanned aircraft and associated elements, including communication links and components that control the unmanned aircraft. For the purposes of this definition, unmanned aircraft shall mean aircraft without a human pilot on board the aircraft.



University	means the Florida International University and/or any of its subdivisions.
University Property	means Florida International University and/or any of its subdivisions. The phrase "on University Property" shall mean "from, on or above University property."
University Personnel	means faculty, students and staff of the University and persons performing voluntary work, or work as a POI for the University.
University Business	means any official or unofficial business done for the benefit of the University, or in furtherance of any project, program, activities, initiatives, research or task undertaken by the University, including but not limited to any teaching, testing, project or research done in connection with any course or class offered by the University or any of the University's extra-curricular or co-curricular offerings.
Invitee	means an individual or entity who visits University Property, by invitation of a faculty or staff member, for any purpose that benefits the University, including but not limited to contractors, vendors, consultants and public safety agencies.
FAA	means Federal Aviation Administration
Foreign Country of Concern (FCC)	defined by the State of Florida as the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the Venezuelan regime of Nicolas Maduro, or the Syrian Arab Republic.
Drone Assessment Team	A group of FIU employees comprised of representatives from the Office of Compliance, the Office of General Counsel, Information Technology, and ORED responsible for assessing requested purchase, acquisition and use and issuing written authorization under this policy.



ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

N/A

RELATED RESOURCES

Florida Administrative Code & Florida Administrative Register -
<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?id=60GG-2.0075>

CONTACTS

Questions about this policy should be directed to drones@fiu.edu, which is monitored by the Drone Assessment Team comprised of representatives from the Office of Compliance, the Office of General Counsel, Information Technology, and ORED.

HISTORY

Initial Effective Date: February 20, 2025

Review Dates (review performed, no updates): N/A

Revision Dates (updates made to document): February 20, 2025.



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PROCEDURE STATEMENT

Any use of a UAS/Drone by any person on University property, or inside a building on University property, is strictly prohibited without prior written authorization by the University. Any purchase, acquisition or use of a UAS by any University Personnel in any location for University Business is strictly prohibited without prior written authorization by the University.

Authorization must be obtained by emailing drones@fiu.edu so that the Drone Assessment Team may review the request and determine if the required written authorization may be issued.