



University of South Alabama Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Policy

The University of South Alabama (USA) recognizes the potential for faculty, staff, students, and external approved groups to utilize University properties for the operation of UAS's, drones. The operation of UAS's is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements and relevant state laws.

Purpose

For reasons that include safety of individuals, property and the use of national airspace, any operation of an aircraft must comply with USA's applicable policies, rules, and regulations. This policy and the University UAS Operations Manual shall serve as a guide for any operation of UAS's for commercial, research and or academic purposes on University-owned or managed property.

Any hobby or recreational operation of UAS is prohibited on all University of South Alabama campuses or properties.

Oversight

The University of South Alabama Chief of Police shall serve as the UAS Operations Administrator and is responsible for enforcing the policy in coordination with the University's UAS Operations Advisory Committee.

Academic or Research Use

- The use of UAS is permitted for educational or research purposes.
- UAS Operators (which includes the individual operating the unit and the supervising individual) must obtain prior approval from the UAS Operations Administrator or his/her designee at least 48 hours prior to the use of an UAS. Utilize "University of South Alabama UAS (Drone) Operations form to obtain authorization.
- UAS Operators must provide a flight plan listing the date/time, purpose, length of expected UAS operations, as well as the specific areas of campus where the flight will occur. Air Traffic Controller (ATC) notification maybe required if within five(5) miles of a functional airport. Note if operating altitude is less than immediate obstructions surrounding the aircraft (trees, buildings, etc) ATC does not require notification. The US policy manual requires a SkyVector screenshot indicating the flight location and its distance to the nearest airport.
- UAS Operators must comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations, as well as all University policies.

- UAS Operators must have at minimum a remote pilot airman certificate with a small UAS rating or fly under the direct supervision of a person who holds a remote pilot certificate.
- UAS Operators must be familiar with prohibited flight locations, including areas of public assembly, stadiums and residential housing facilities. Operations in prohibited areas must be accompanied by a waiver obtained from the FAA and any other documentation required by law.
- UAS Operators must not photograph, video, or monitor areas where other identifiable members of the University community or members of the general public are present without written authorization. Contact the USA Marketing and Communication Office for guidance as needed.
- UAS Operators must be familiar with and have a physical copy of the University's UAS Operations Manual on-site during any UAS operation.
- All UAS must be properly registered per FAA regulations.
- Emergency procedures for Lost Link, Lost Visual and Low Voltage will be explicitly stated for each flight plan (mission profile
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Violations and Authority

Any violation of law, including but not limited to trespassing, illegal surveillance or, reckless endangerment, or any violations of University policies may subject the individual to both criminal and/or disciplinary action. Damages/injuries incurred as a result of a UAS operation will be the responsibility of the UAS Operator.

The USA Police and the USA Safety & Environmental Compliance Department maintain the authority to suspend operations of any UAS not in compliance or creating a potential for danger to persons or property.

University of South Alabama UAS (Drone) Operation Form

- 1.) University affiliation:
- 2.) Pilot In Charge:
- 3.) Drone License Number:
- 4.) GPS Coordinates of Flight Area including Radius of Flight (Include a google Maps Image) example provided:

Mesonet Tower - 30.694316, -88.194581 – Proposed Altitude up to 400 feet – 100 ft radius



- 5.) Name of RC Aircraft and Type:
- 6.) FAA Registered Aircraft Number:
- 7.) Description of Flying Operations: Example: **We will be flying our quadcopter next to the mesonet tower at 80 ft AGL. The tower itself has pressure, temperature and humidity sensors and the quad will have a similar sensor. The goal is to compare the data from the quadcopter and the static tower to determine if a quadcopter is a viable option for atmospheric sensing.**
- 8.) Date of Operations:

-----DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE-----

Date ATC Contacted (251 662 6208):

Flight Operations Approved/Rejected:

Approval by UAS Operations Administer: _____
Zeke Aull Date

Review by UAS Program Advisory Committee Yes No