Unmanned Aircraft Systems

I. Purpose
This policy is implemented to protect the health and safety of University students, employees, patients, and campus visitors, to comply with Commonwealth of Kentucky laws, and to comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements to prevent disruption of active flight activities of the heliport at the University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Hospital adjacent to Kroger Field.

II. Definitions
• Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS): any unmanned (uncrewed) aerial vehicle or drone operated from a distance of more than one foot via tether or remote control or autonomous control, including but not limited to fixed wing and rotorcraft platforms.
• Operator: any faculty, staff, student, visitor, contractor, agency, production house, business, club organization or other individual using or piloting a UAS.

III. Responsibilities
A. Administration of this policy is coordinated through the Office of the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration with support from the Office of University Events.
B. A list of those authorized to use UAS will be viewable by University administrative offices.

IV. Policy
A. This policy applies to Operators of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) or drones for research, education, demonstrations, communications, recreation, and all other purposes while on University owned, operated, or controlled property.
B. The University will comply with FAA requirements, state law, and any other locally applicable laws or regulations regarding UAS.
C. UAS operators must meet requirements for small, unmanned aircraft Part 107 in the Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR). For complex operations, higher education institutions and other public entities may operate UAS for the purposes of aeronautical research upon receipt of a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (“COA”) from the FAA.
D. UAS shall only be used for institutional purposes compliant with the University mission of teaching, research, and service.
E. Hobbyist or recreational use of UAS is prohibited on all University owned, operated, or controlled property.
   UAS shall be operated in a manner that adheres to federal and state law, FAA requirements, and best practices for air traffic management and safety.
F. Commercial use of UAS (including non-University entities interested in operating UAS on campus property) is not permitted unless there is approval from the University, the UAS has been registered with the FAA, the operator has provided evidence of FAA approval to fly within the designated airspace where required, and the operator meets the requirements for small unmanned aircraft Part 107 in Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) or other FAA authorization.
G. UAS shall not be used in such a way as to create a hazard to University owned, operated, or controlled property, the University community, or the public. UAS shall not be operated in a way that disrupts instruction or unduly affects the environment of people in or passing through a common space or residential
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space, working or studying within a building, or entering, exiting or otherwise making their way about a facility.

H. UAS shall not be operated directly above open air events or above thoroughfares, including but not limited to roadways, sidewalks, bike paths and pedestrian paths.

I. Use of UAS at Kroger Field during events listed in FAA FDC 4/3621 is prohibited.

J. Failure to comply with this policy may result in referral to campus, local, state, or federal law enforcement for citation and prosecution consistent with applicable laws.

V. Approval Process

To use UAS on the main campus where coordination with the UK Hospital helipad is necessary, the operator shall apply for permission through the University of Kentucky Event Management Office using the Event Management System at least seven (7) days prior to operation. Depending on the nature of the UAS use on all University of Kentucky owned, operated or controlled property, including emergency and annual experienced operator use cases, the Event Management office will work with the appropriate University department(s) for approval. Included in all third-party usage requirements will be proof of general liability insurance with a $2,000,000 per occurrence limit and “The University of Kentucky, its Trustees and employees” must be added as an additional insured.

VI. Additional Information on UAS usage:

FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Regulations & Policies

FAA Frequently Asked Questions – Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)