



Unmanned Aerial System (Drone) Policy

1102.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish requirements for the safe operation of unmanned aerial systems also known as "drones" on or above any Northwestern State University property. The policy is not to stifle innovation or research but to encourage the safe operation of Unmanned Aerial Systems in the National Air Space over Northwestern State University properties. This policy applies to the operation of all unmanned aerial systems, owned or leased, by University employees, students, contractors, or visitors.

1102.2 DEFINITIONS

- **Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)** is an unmanned aircraft and all associated support equipment, control stations, data links, telemetry, communication and navigation equipment, etc. necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, 14 CFR 107, apply to all UAS weighing less than 55lbs.
- **UAS Operator** is anyone authorized to fly a UAS for commercial or recreational purposes. Commercial UAS operators must be licensed to operate per FAA regulations.
- **Recreational Flight** is the operation of an unmanned aircraft for hobby or recreation provided that the person is 1) not compensated, or 2) any compensation received is neither directly nor incidentally related to that person's operation of the aircraft for any purpose.
- **Commercial Flight** is an UAS operation that does not fall under the definition of Recreational Flight.

1102.3 GENERAL PROCEDURES

- A. All UAS operations must comply with FAA regulations and any applicable State or Federal law, including RS 14:337.
- B. Recreational use of UAS on Northwestern State University property is prohibited unless approved by the Northwestern State University UAS Committee.
- C. All Commercial and Educational UAS operations must be approved by the Northwestern State University UAS Committee.
- D. UAS Committee approved flights shall notify the University Police Department no less than an hour before the flight is to occur at 318-357-5431.
- E. Following UAS Committee Approval, an approval sticker will be provided to the UAS operator making the request. Once received the operator is to place the approval

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sticker on the back of their ID which they must have in their possession while operating the UAS on or above University Property.

- F. All flights must be operated by a licensed operator in accordance with FAA regulations with a registered UAS also in accordance with FAA regulations.
- G. Approved Flights shall not exceed an altitude of 200ft without prior approval from the UAS Committee.
- H. Operations are to be during daylight hours only, or civil twilight (60 minutes before official sunrise to 60 minutes after official sunset, local time) with appropriate anti-collision lighting.

The UAS committee must approve all research, educational, and commercial UAS operations that occur on and above University property. The committee can provide guidance on

- Where UAS operations can occur
- When UAS operations are allowed
- Optimal weather conditions to conduct UAS flights
- Process for obtaining an FAA Remote Pilot Certificate

Operators who wish to apply for UAS approval must complete the following form:

Campus UAS Application to Operate form

The completed form may be submitted via email at nsuehs@nsula.edu.

1102.4 ENFORCEMENT

Statutes and regulations applying to UAS are laws and will be enforced by the University Police Department. Violation of these laws may result in civil or criminal charges from the State of Louisiana and/or U.S. Federal Government. Failure to follow this policy may also incur the additional penalty of banned future flight operations on or above Northwestern State University Property. Students who violate this policy may face student conduct disciplinary action.