

Procedures for University Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

As provided in [MTSU Policy 785 Unmanned Aircraft Systems](#), the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) is permitted only for mission-related activities, such as teaching and institutional research, or to advance University operations and capital improvements, provided that the operators of such aircrafts receive the necessary approval from the Provost and the Vice President for Business and Finance.

The operation of UAS is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). MTSU has established the following procedures to ensure the operation of UAS by University employees and students complies with those regulations and is done in a manner that reduces risks to safety, property and privacy.

I. Employee and Student Use of UAS

A University employee or student seeking to operate a UAS on University property or at a University-sponsored event must remit a completed UAS Use Application to the Office of the Provost at least five (5) calendar days prior to the proposed date of operation. The requested use may not take place without prior written approval.

A University employee or student who operates a UAS on University property or at a University-sponsored event is personally responsible for becoming familiar and complying with all applicable FAA regulations, federal, state and local laws, and University policies and procedures.

A University employee seeking to operate a UAS as part of his/her University employment or as a part of a University program shall be considered to be conducting commercial operations and must first obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate with a small UAS rating issued by the FAA.

A University student seeking to operate a UAS as part of his/her course work shall be considered to be conducting model aircraft hobbyist operations. Such student need not obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate, but is responsible for meeting and complying with all other requirements for lawful model aircraft use pursuant to Section 336 of Public Law 112-95.

A University employee or student seeking to purchase a UAS, or contract for UAS services, with University funds must first contact the Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management and the Department of Aerospace for an assessment of the University's ability to obtain the necessary FAA exemptions and to comply with all applicable University requirements.

II. Contracted Third Party Use of UAS

Any third party contracted by the University to operate a UAS on University property or at a University-sponsored event must establish FAA approval/certification, comply with all FAA regulations and waiver requirements, and provide evidence of such approval upon request of the University. In addition, such third party must be under a contract that holds the University harmless from any resulting claims or harm to individuals and damage to University property and provides insurance as required by the Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management.

Third Party vendors contracted by MTSU who utilize UAS at the request of University operations and/or for capital projects must provide evidence of Commercial General Liability Insurance that includes Drone

Liability Insurance to cover the cost associated with property damage or personal injury resulting from UAS operation.

III. Recording of Visual Images

In operating a UAS for purposes of recording or transmitting visual images, operators must take all reasonable measures to avoid flying over or within areas in which there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

No person shall use a UAS to conduct surveillance of any other person or group of persons. Tennessee state law provides that a person who knowingly or intentionally uses an unmanned aircraft to capture an image of an individual or privately owned real property to conduct surveillance on the individual or property commits a Class C misdemeanor.

IV. Safety and Security

All UAS operators must comply with FAA rules and guidelines regarding UAS flights and FAA airspace restrictions, including areas designated as “No Drone Zones.”

V. Review

These Procedures for University Use of UAS may be updated as FAA guidelines change and/or as the University’s research and operational needs change. Review of these Procedures, and [MTSU Policy 785 Unmanned Aircraft Systems](#), shall be performed in collaboration with the University Provost; the Chair of the Department of Aerospace or his/her designee; the Vice President for Business and Finance; the Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management; and, the Office of the University Counsel.

[UAS Use Application](#)

[MTSU Policy 785 Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS\)](#)

14 CFR Part 107

<https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=e331c2fe611df1717386d29eee38b000&mc=true&node=pt14.2.107&rgn=div5>

14 CFR Part 101

<https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?rgn=div5&node=14:2.0.1.3.15>

FAA Advisory Circular 91-57A

https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC_91-57A.pdf

Interpretation of Special Rules for Model Aircraft

https://www.faa.gov/uas/educational_users/media/model_aircraft_spec_rule.pdf

Educational Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

https://www.faa.gov/uas/educational_users/