



Policy Owner:	Office of Public Safety
Applicability:	Faculty, Staff, Students, and Visitors
Effective Date:	June 21, 2016

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) or Drone Policy

Policy Statement:

The use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), commonly referred to as Drones, has increased in popularity during the past 5 years. Although most often associated with military operations, drones have numerous law enforcement and civilian applications, including reconnaissance and land surveillance, wildlife tracking, search and rescue operations, disaster response, border patrol and firefighting and in higher education. Unless used responsibly and safely the use of drones can be dangerous to the public. These dangers include operation near airports and over large crowds. Privacy issues are also a concern. With that said all members of the Salve Regina University community, as well as visitors, are prohibited from operating a UAS or drone on the premises of the university. Operation of a drone may endanger the welfare of individuals or the community, on University premises and are prohibited other than in strict compliance with the exceptions contained below.

Reason for the Policy:

Salve Regina University is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment to conduct educational and research activities. This policy is a proactive step towards reducing the risk of injury, death or privacy issues associated with the use of drones on the University property.

All faculty, staff, students and visitors to the university are strictly prohibited from operating a UAS or drone on the premises of the university without the explicit advance authorization of the university through the Director of Public Safety or their designee, regardless of whether a federal or state license to operate the UAS or drone has been issued to the possessor.

Rules and Regulations:

- Hobbyist, Recreational and Educational users have 2 options to operate drones in Rhode Island under the following conditions
- 1. FLY AS A RECREATIONAL FLYER: including educational purposes.
 - You MUST register your drone with the FAA
 - Aircraft cannot be over 55 lbs.
 - Cannot be flown over persons not directly involved with the operations.
 - Cannot be flown within 5 miles of an airport without permission.
 - Cannot be operated in a careless or reckless manner so as to endanger the life or property of another.

- Fly at or below 400 feet when in uncontrolled airspace (Class G)
 - Fly within visual line-of-sight, meaning you as the drone operator use your own eyes and needed contacts or glasses (without binoculars), to ensure you can see your drone at all times.
 - Never fly near other aircraft.
 - Never fly over groups of people, public events, or stadiums full of people.
 - Never fly near or over emergency response efforts.
2. **FLY UNDER PART 107 RULES:** for any reason, including for work or business, for fun in your backyard, to teach, or for public safety missions. To fly under part 107 rules, there are 3 main steps:
- Learn the Rules
 - Become an FAA-Certified Drone Pilot
 - Register your Drone with the FAA

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

- Certified Remote Pilots including Commercial Operators only have One Option to operate drones in Rhode Island under the following conditions

COMMERCIAL PILOTS MUST:

- Learn the Rules under Part 107
- Become an FAA-Certified Drone Pilot by Passing the Knowledge Test
- Register your Drone with the FAA

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

If there is an incident concerning the use of UAS or Drones on university property please direct them to the Rhode Island State Aeronautics Inspectors Office at (401) 691-2227 or (401) 465-9906 as well as the Office of Public Safety at Salve Regina University (401) 341-2325.

Authorization and exceptions:

1. Faculty, Staff or University Clubs wishing to operate a UAS or Drone on the premises of the university if they are part of an approved university approved project, academic or research activity only.

Persons subject to this exemption must obtain the explicit advance authorization of the university by making written notification to the Director of Public Safety and Community Relations or his designee in a timely manner and in advance of the activity.

Before such authorization is granted the UAS or Drone must comply with all FAA guidelines regarding registration and operation as well as notification of Newport State Airport 211 Airport Access Road, Middletown RI 02842 (401) 846-9400 because the University is located under 5 miles from the airport.

2. Any outside vendor wishing to operate a UAS or Drone on the premises of the university must obtain the explicit advance authorization of the university by making written notification to the Director of Public Safety or their designee in a timely manner and in advance of the activity.

Before such authorization is granted the UAS or Drone must comply with all FAA guidelines regarding registration and operation as well as notification of Newport State Airport 211 Airport Access Road,

Middletown RI 02842 (401) 846-9400 because the University is located under 5 miles from the airport.

Definitions:

UAS or Drone: an unmanned aircraft or ship guided by remote control or onboard computers

Public Safety Contact Information:

- Office of Public Safety
 1. 401-341-2325
 2. Safety.security@salve.edu
- Director of Public Safety– Matthew Corcelli
 1. 401-341-2323
 2. matthew.corcelli@salve.edu