

AIRCRAFT/DRONE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following FAQs are derived from the [FAA's UAS FAQ website](#) and the [CSU Policy on Aircraft on University Property/Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(Drones\)](#).

1. What is an unmanned aircraft system (UAS)?

An unmanned aircraft system (or systems), or UAS, is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) and the equipment necessary for the safe and efficient operation of that aircraft. A UAV is a component of a UAS. It is defined by statute as an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft (Public Law 112-95, Section 331(8)). In these FAQs, "drone" and UAS are used interchangeably; see the CSU Policy for full definitions.

2. Is a UAS the same as a model aircraft?

Congress defined a "model aircraft" as a UAS that meets all of the following:

- Is capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere
- Is flown within visual line-of-sight of the person operating it
- Is flown for *hobby or recreational purposes*

UAS flown for university business, educational, research, and other purposes relating to university programs are not flown for hobby or recreational purposes and are therefore not model aircraft; **except that**, on occasion, a UAS may be used in connection with a course or project, where the operator is a student under the supervision of an instructor, and be considered a model aircraft if:

- a. No compensation is received by anyone in connection with the flight operation;
- b. The student primarily retains operational control, the faculty member has all required FAA certifications and permissions to operate the UAS, and the faculty member's manipulation of the aircraft is incidental and secondary to the student's (e.g., the faculty member steps in to regain control in the event the student begins to lose control, to terminate the flight, etc.);
- c. The student is not operating the UAS primarily for the benefit of, or as a substitute for, the faculty member when the faculty member does not have a Certificate of Authorization to operate the UAS; and
- d. The primary purpose of the course is not UAS flight instruction; this is only one part of the curriculum.

3. Does CSU permit model aircraft or recreational/hobbyist UAS flights on campus?

No, recreational use of drones is not permitted on CSU property under the policy. This is necessitated due to the inability of the university to plan for, monitor, and assure the safety of such flights, and to protect against violations of FAA regulations, violations of privacy, and other abuses. However, under limited circumstances, a UAS flight that qualifies as hobbyist use may be approved when all of the conditions described in #2 above are met.

4. When are students allowed to fly drones on campus?

Typically, student drone operations are hobbyist/recreational uses and are not permitted on CSU property. However, a registered student organization can seek approval to fly in the same

manner as any other department or individual. In addition, a student may operate a UAS in connection with an academic or other CSU program in the circumstances described in #2 above.

5. Where on CSU property can aircraft/UAS flights be conducted?

At this time, the only location identified for flying any aircraft on CSU property is at Christman Field, a private use airfield owned by the University on the Foothills Campus in Fort Collins. All use of Christman Field must be approved, in advance, by Risk Management & Insurance (RMI) and Facilities Management and is subject to competing demands for the use of the space and compliance with all applicable rules and requirements. Contact Facilities Management for further information (telephone 970-491-0056, email fac_facilitiesscheduling@mail.colostate.edu). Other areas may be considered depending upon the particular case.

• **What are the legal requirements for flying a UAS?**

Under federal laws and FAA regulations, all unmanned aerial vehicles must be properly registered with the FAA and operated by a certified Remote Pilot in Command. With the advent of the FAA's Part 107, the certification process is much easier than in the past for most UAS operations. For more information, see the [FAA Summary of Small Unmanned Aircraft Rule](#). For most UAS operations, it is no longer necessary to apply for a "Section 333 exemption" from the FAA or to be a fully licensed pilot before obtaining FAA certification to fly a drone. However, remote pilots must still pass an FAA examination in order to become certified. (See #9 below).

6. What are CSU's requirements for flying a UAS?

CSU requires compliance with all legal requirements (see above) and a properly completed and approved [CSU Drone Approval Request form](#) before flying any type of aircraft, including drones.

7. What are the legal restrictions when flying a drone?

The FAA regulations include a number of restrictions that apply to all UAS flights, unless the FAA has granted the operator a waiver of one or more of those restrictions. These restrictions are set forth in the [FAA Summary of Small Unmanned Aircraft Rule](#) and include, but are not limited to:

- a. Weight restrictions;
- b. Line of sight (LOS) operations only;
- c. No operations over people, except those directly participating in the activity of flying the drone;
- d. Daylight flights only;
- e. Speed and altitude restrictions;
- f. Airspace restrictions;
- g. No flights from moving vehicles;
- h. No careless or reckless operations; and
- i. No carriage of hazardous materials, and other restrictions on payload.

These restrictions are described more specifically on the website noted above.

8. Where do I start if I want to get permission to fly on University property?

The best place to start is by reviewing the full CSU Policy, the FAA Summary referred to in #7

above, and the [Drone Approval Request Form](#). You may wish to contact Risk Management & Insurance before completing the form to make sure you understand the requirements.

9. How do I get the certification I need from the FAA and how do I register my drone?

According to the [FAA's Small UAS Regulations Fact Sheet](#), the following requirements apply to UAS operators:

Pilot Certification

To operate the controls of a small UAS under Part 107, you need a remote pilot airman certificate with a small UAS rating, or be under the direct supervision of a person who holds such a certificate.

You must be at least 16 years old to qualify for a remote pilot certificate, and you can obtain it in one of two ways:

- You may pass an initial aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA-approved knowledge testing center.
- If you already have a Part 61 pilot certificate, other than a student pilot certificate, you must have completed a flight review in the previous 24 months and you must take a small UAS online training course provided by the FAA.

Additional guidance from the FAA directs prospective operators to an online form, [FAA Form 8710-13](#), that must be completed in order to become certified as a remote airman. However, an aeronautical knowledge test is required before completing this form. According to the FAA, this knowledge can be obtained through self-study, taking an online training course, taking an in-person course, or a combination of these. A more detailed description of the knowledge required appears in [this FAA Advisory Circular](#). The test is administered at a Knowledge Testing Center (KTC). The location of the closest KTC can be found in [this FAA web location](#). There are several of these in northern Colorado, including locations in Boulder, Broomfield, and Greeley, and others located elsewhere in-state. Phone numbers are provided to obtain more information from the KTC. There are numerous private companies that provide training courses and assist with the application process; or, the course may be taken online from [another FAA site](#). This site also provides a large library of reference materials and forms.

Drone Registration

Instructions from the FAA on how to register your UAS are also [available online](#). The Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) Registration Service is located [here](#). Drones only need to be registered if they weigh more than 0.55 lbs. (250 grams or approximately 8.5 oz.). Drones that weigh more than 55 lbs with all payload attached cannot be flown or registered under Part 107; the more demanding process of obtaining a Section 333 exemption and Certificate of Authorization applies. More information about this process can be obtained from the Office of General Counsel (970-491-6270).

10. OK, I have all the required training and certification and have registered my drone. I want to operate it in a way that requires a waiver of one or more restrictions under Part 107. How do I apply for a waiver?

The FAA offers a [Waiver Request Form](#). Instructions relating to the waiver form are also provided on that site.

11. URLs of website references in this document:

[FAA's UAS FAQ website: https://www.faa.gov/uas/faqs/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/faqs/)

[FAA Summary of Small Unmanned Aircraft Rule:
http://www.faa.gov/uas/media/Part_107_Summary.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/uas/media/Part_107_Summary.pdf)

[FAA Small UAS Regulation Fact Sheet:
http://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=20516](http://www.faa.gov/news/fact_sheets/news_story.cfm?newsId=20516)

[FAA Form 8710-13:
https://www.faa.gov/forms/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentID/1029326](https://www.faa.gov/forms/index.cfm/go/document.information/documentID/1029326)

[FAA Advisory Circular AC No.107-2:
http://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC_107-2.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory_Circular/AC_107-2.pdf)

[FAA Airman Knowledge Testing Center List:
https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/media/test_centers.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/media/test_centers.pdf)

[FAA Airman Knowledge Test Prep:
https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_work_business/becoming_a_pilot/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_work_business/becoming_a_pilot/)

[FAA Part 107 Online Course:
https://www.faasafety.gov/gslac/ALC/course_content.aspx?cID=451&sID=733&crID=1436761](https://www.faasafety.gov/gslac/ALC/course_content.aspx?cID=451&sID=733&crID=1436761)

[FAA Aircraft Registry Information and Instruction:
http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/aircraft_certification/aircraft_registry/ua/](http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/aircraft_certification/aircraft_registry/ua/)

[FAA Small UAS Registration: https://registermyuas.faa.gov/](https://registermyuas.faa.gov/)

[FAA Part 107 Waiver Request Form: http://www.faa.gov/uas/request_waiver/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/request_waiver/)

[CSU Policy on Aircraft on University Property/Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(Drones\):
http://policylibrary.colostate.edu/policy.aspx?id=746](http://policylibrary.colostate.edu/policy.aspx?id=746)

[CSU Drone Approval Request form: https://rmi.prep.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/06/CSU-RMI-DRONE-APPROVAL-REQUEST-FORM-FINAL.pdf](https://rmi.prep.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/06/CSU-RMI-DRONE-APPROVAL-REQUEST-FORM-FINAL.pdf)