Unmanned Aircraft Systems

UC Center of Excellence on UAS Safety
The UC Center of Excellence on Unmanned Aircraft System Safety[1] provides systemwide expertise, support and training for regulatory compliance, risk management and the safe operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, across the University of California (UC) system. It is also authorized to grant certain forms of approval for UAS operations in the United States. Please contact erm@ucop.edu[2] to be added to the UC-UAS-RESEARCH-L listserv.

Approval Process for UCD UAS Flight Operations

1. Register your University drone with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and with the UC. See: UAS Registration.

2. Go to the UC Drones Web App[3] to create and submit a Flight Request application. The Flight Request should be submitted at least one week in advance of the planned flight.

3. Center personnel will review the information on the Flight Request application form and suggest changes based on Federal law and regulations.

4. Center will issue a final recommendation about the proposed Flight Request to Risk Management and Police (if applicable), and will approve or deny the request. They will send a copy of their recommendation to the applicant.

5. Risk Management will review the Center’s recommendation, and will either approve or deny the flight request.

6. If the Flight Request is approved, the applicant must comply with Center’s final recommendations and must, at the conclusion of the flight, complete a Flight Report through the UC Drones Web App[3].

3rd Party Drone Operators and Non-UC Affiliates
3rd party and non-UC operators do not have access to the UC Drones Web App, and will need to complete a Flight Request[4] via the UAS Safety system for approval to fly a drone on campus or for other purposes not related to University business. The Center will process the Flight Request and respond to the applicant by email.

At the conclusion of an approved drone flight, non-UC operators must complete and submit a
Recreational UAS Operators (Model Aircraft)
Model aircrafts are defined as unmanned aircraft systems operated recreationally, or in the pursuit of one's hobby, outside of one's regular occupation. Commercial operations, such as photography services, are not considered to be hobby or recreational flight, regardless of compensation. Additionally, flights that are in furtherance of a business, or incidental to a person’s business, would not be a hobby or recreational flight. Operators of model aircrafts are required to notify all airports within 5 miles (Section 336 of Public Law 112-95) of the planned flight. To notify the University Airport (KEDU) in compliance with federal regulations, complete the [R] [7] Recreational Drone Flight Form [8].

UAS Registration
Employees and students who operate University UASs for research and educational activities are legally required to register University drones with the FAA. Go to [FAA UAS Registration] [9] to register your University UAS. Drones owned by the University should be registered to “The Regents of the University of California”.

After registering the drone with the FAA, UC employees must go to the [UC Drones Web App] [3] to register University UASs with the UC Center of Excellence on Unmanned Aircraft System Safety.

Contact
Risk Management Services
rms@ucdavis.edu
More information
[https://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/risk-management-services-staff-listing] [10]

External links
1. [UC Center of Excellence on Unmanned Aircraft Systems Safety][1]
2. [Unmanned Aircraft Systems][11]

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Links
[2] mailto:erm@ucop.edu?subject=Request%20to%20be%20added%20to%20UC-UAS-RESEARCH-L%20listserv