

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Policy

Section 1. UTIA Mission Statement:

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA), through its colleges, research and education centers, and county extension offices, serves the people of Tennessee and beyond through the discovery, communication, and application of knowledge. UTIA, working with the University of Tennessee - Knoxville, is committed to providing undergraduate, graduate and professional education programs in a diverse learning environment that prepares students to be leaders in a global society. The Institute's delivery of Real.Life.Solutions contributes to the economic, social and environmental well-being of all Tennesseans and focuses on contemporary problems faced by Tennessee, the nation, and the world.

Section 2. Purpose of this policy:

Unmanned aerial systems (or UAS) provide an opportunity for instruction, outreach, and research in the various disciplines within UTIA. This policy is in place to:

- Enable research, education, outreach, and scholarship related to UAS in a safe environment
- Ensure compliance with local, state, and federal laws and FAA regulations
- Ensure compliance with the UT UAS Policy
- Mitigate any risks to UTIA and persons associated with UTIA
- Outline the approval pathway to operate UAS on university property, at UTIA sponsored events, and/or while working or otherwise representing UTIA

Section 3. Persons affected:

This policy applies to all UTIA faculty, staff, CASNR students, UT College of Veterinary Medicine students, vendors, volunteers, visitors, or any other person who wishes to operate UAS on university property, non-university property, at UTIA sponsored events, or in conjunction with University employment.

Section 4. UTIA UAS Board:

A UTIA UAS Board will be appointed by the Chancellor and consist of representatives from UT Extension, UT AgResearch, the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and the College of Veterinary Medicine who are familiar with UAS regulations and operations. The UTIA UAS Board will be responsible for: (1) reviewing, approving, and providing guidance for UAS operations on off-campus University property and (2) establishing procedures to implement and enforce this UTIA UAS policy. The chair of this board will be appointed by the Chancellor and the board will meet on a regular basis to review UAS operation requests.

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Section 5. Operation of UAS:

Operation of UAS on The University of Tennessee, Knoxville and UTIA campuses

- I. All persons who operate UAS on The University of Knoxville campus are personally responsible for complying with The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Unmanned Aircraft Systems Policy http://utpolice.utk.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/48/2017/02/UTK_UAS_Policy.pdf

Operation of UAS Outside of The University of Tennessee, Knoxville and UTIA campuses

- I. All persons who operate UAS on off-campus university-owned property, at off-campus UTIA sponsored events, and/or conducted off-campus in conjunction with University employment are personally responsible for complying with:
 - a. Federal, state, or local laws or regulations, including without limitation, FAA regulations (e.g., operational, registration, licensing, and notification requirements) and export control regulations; and
 - b. University rules, policies, procedures, contracts, and research grants.
- II. All persons who operate UAS on off-campus university property, at off-campus UTIA sponsored events, and/or conducted off-campus in conjunction with University employment must obtain approval from the UTIA UAS Board prior to operating UAS.
 - a. Persons requesting approval for the operation of UAS must, at a minimum, demonstrate to the UTIA UAS Board that the operation of the UAS will be in compliance with this policy, including without limitation, the operational, registration, licensing, and notification requirements set forth in FAA regulations.
 - b. Persons requesting approval for the operation of UAS must complete the UTIA UAS Approval Form and obtain approval from the UTIA UAS Board 14 days prior to operation. The UTIA UAS board may provide a blanket approval to operate a UAS (i.e., exempt a person from the requirement to obtain approval from the UAS Coordinator prior to each UAS operation).
 - c. The UTIA UAS Board, in consultation with the Office of Risk Management and the Office of the General Counsel, may impose requirements relating to proof of insurance and the execution of releases of liability with respect to UAS operations by persons who are not University employees. The UTIA UAS Board may request additional information or clarification from the requestor, and may provide direction or other requirements as a condition of approving the UAS operations.
- III. All persons who operate UAS on off-campus university owned property, at off-campus UTIA sponsored events, and/or conducted off-campus in conjunction with University employment must notify AgResearch and Education Center Director, 4-H Camp Director and/or private landowner prior to operation.

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- IV. A UAS must not be operated:
 - a. In a manner that violates this policy, including without limitation, violating federal, state, or local laws or regulations;
 - b. Inside University buildings or facilities;
 - c. Above a person who is either not directly participating in the operation of the unmanned aircraft or not located under a covered structure that can provide reasonable protection from a falling unmanned aircraft;
 - d. In a manner that blocks or substantially impedes entrances or exits to University or private property;
 - e. In a manner that substantially disrupts or interferes with UTIA operations, events, or activities taking place on University or private property;
 - c. In a manner or in a place that unreasonably threatens the health or safety of another person;
 - d. In a manner that monitors or records an area where a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy;
 - e. In a manner or in a place that unreasonably threatens damage to University or private property.
- V. The UTIA UAS Board may grant exceptions to this policy that are in the best interests of UTIA as long as the exceptions do not violate any federal, state, or local law or regulation.

Section 6. Purchases of UAS by University Units.

- I. UTIA units must comply with [FISCAL POLICY FI0405](#) with respect to purchases of UAS. University units should consult with the UTIA UAS Board before purchasing UASs with University funds in order to ensure that the proposed use(s) of the UAS will be in accordance with this policy, FAA regulations, and export control regulations.
- II. UTIA units must comply with [FISCAL POLICY FI0605](#) with respect to using, recording, controlling, maintaining, repairing, transferring, and disposing of UAS.
- III. UTIA units must notify the Office of Risk Management about UAS purchased with University funds.

Section 7. Export Control Regulations.

The United States Department of State (Export Control Regulations) and the United States Department of Commerce (International Traffic in Arms Regulations) regulate export control over various types of UAS. University employees who plan on designing, building, modifying, and/or dismantling UAS must give prior notice to the UTIA Compliance Officer.

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Section 8. Consequences of Policy Violation.

- I. Individuals who violate this policy may be required to cease operation of their UAS immediately and until policy compliance is achieved.
- II. Individuals who violate this policy may be held accountable for their actions in accordance with law and applicable University disciplinary policies and procedures. The UTIA UAS Board is authorized to notify the FAA and/or law enforcement of violations of this policy, law, and/or regulations.
- III. The UTIA UAS Board may consider an individual's history of compliance or non-compliance with this policy in determining whether to grant a request to operate UAS.