# Policy Proposal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title*</th>
<th>Use and Purchase of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs) or Drones</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document Type*</td>
<td>✔ Policy □ Guideline □ Procedure □ Form</td>
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**Purpose & Applies To**

**Purpose***
To articulate the university’s requirements and procedures to collect approvals for the use or purchase of UASs for research, educational, commercial, and/or personal purposes.

**Applies To***
Students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the Lawrence campus, including affiliated corporations.

**Campus*** (Please select if the policy will apply to the entire University, to a main campus and all reporting units, or to a specific campus or campuses. The selections in this section determine which logo(s) appear on the policy.)

- ✔ Lawrence campus & all reporting units
- KU Medical Center
- Lawrence
- Edwards
- Parsons
- Wichita
- Salina
- Juniper Gardens
- Yoder
- Topeka

**Policy Statement, Special Circumstances, & Consequences**

**Policy Statement***
The operation of UASs is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The university has established procedures to ensure that proper approvals and announcements are made prior to the use of any UASs on or over campus. All UAS flights over the KU campus must receive prior written approval from the university.

Additionally, the operation of UASs for university research or educational purposes (whether on-campus or off-campus), and the purchase of UASs or UAS technology or materials must follow the procedures identified below.

UAS operators must comply with all applicable FAA, state, and local laws and ordinances. Operators must also demonstrate a baseline level of proficiency in takeoff, landing, and maneuvering of UAS around obstacles.

FAA recommended Safety Guidelines: Fly below 400 feet and remain clear of surrounding obstacles. Do not fly within 5 miles of an airport unless you contact the airport and control tower before flying (Lawrence Municipal Airport is located within 5 miles of campus).

**Exclusions or Special Circumstances***
The FAA bans aircraft flights, including flights by unmanned aircraft and remote controlled aircraft, over stadiums holding more than 30,000 people during division one football games. Accordingly, UAS flights over Memorial Stadium during KU football games are not permitted, without an FAA waiver.

UASs shall not be used to monitor or record areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy in accordance with accepted social norms. These areas include, but are not limited to, restrooms, residential rooms, changing or dressing rooms, and health treatment rooms.

**Consequences***
The university has the right to immediately terminate the operation of a UAS if it
Interferes with campus operations, poses hazards to any person or university facilities, equipment, or other property, or has not received the proper approvals. Individuals who do not have the proper approvals will be referred to the appropriate authorities.

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<th>Contacts &amp; Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Policy Owner</strong>*</td>
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<td><strong>Contact</strong>*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>For university educational and research purposes (regardless of flight location):</strong>  Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research <a href="mailto:KURES@ku.edu">KURES@ku.edu</a>  785-864-3441</td>
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<td><strong>Review Cycle</strong>*</td>
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**Background and Related Documents**

**Related Policies**  [Procurement Policy](#)

**Related Procedures**  [Procedures for the Purchase of UASs or UAS Technology or Materials: Purchasing Procedure](#)

**Procedures for the Use of UASs:**
- KU Procedures for Commercial & Personal UAV Flights Over Campus (placeholder for link once policy is published)
- KU Research Procedures for Purchase and Use of Unmanned Arial Systems (UASs) or Drones for Research Purposes (placeholder for link once policy is published)

**Related Forms**  [FAA Section 333 Exemption](#)


**Definitions, Keywords, History**

**Definitions**  “UAS” means an unmanned aircraft system. A UAS is the unmanned aircraft and all of the associated support equipment, control station, data links, telemetry, communications and navigation equipment, etc., necessary to operate the unmanned aircraft.

**Keywords***  Drones, UAS, UAV, flight

**Review, Approval & Change History***

**Category**

**Categories and Sub-categories**  Operational; Research