



**Campus Administrative Policy**

**Policy Title:     Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)**

Policy Number: 3055                      Functional Area:     General Administration

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Effective:                                    January 1, 2016  
Date Last Amended/Reviewed:        January 1, 2016  
Date Scheduled for Review:            July 1, 2023  
Supersedes:                                N/A—New Policy

Approved by:                                Donald M. Elliman, Jr.  
    Chancellor, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus  
    Dorothy A. Horrell  
    Chancellor, University of Colorado Denver

Prepared by:                                Office of University Counsel  
Reviewing Office:                         Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance  
Responsible Officer:                      Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance

Applies to:                                  CU Anschutz Medical Campus  
    CU Denver Campus

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**A.     INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure public safety and maintain a reasonable expectation of privacy for all individuals accessing all properties owned, operated, and controlled by the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus, and property surrounding the Liniger Building at CU South Denver, by prohibiting the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, over any University property. Specifically on the Anschutz Medical Campus, the protection of University airspace surrounding the affiliate hospitals is paramount due to air traffic operations.

**B.     POLICY/GUIDELINES STATEMENT**

According to current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidance, all use of UAS for University purposes (including for education, research and public service) requires appropriate FAA approvals. The University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical

Campus does not currently possess FAA approval for any of these uses.

All use of UAS for any purpose by University faculty, staff, students, or third parties on University property, including but not limited to recreational or hobby flight of aircraft, is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, any commercial, educational, research, or service purpose.

An exception to this prohibition may be granted only upon the express written permission of the Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. Such permission will only be granted under Compelling Circumstances. Any requested use of UAS under this exception must be sponsored by an internal University school, college, or department.

To request an exception for **commercial or business operations purposes**, the requestor must utilize the current University [Photo/Film/Video Request](#) approval process. Any approved use must be in compliance with applicable University policy, including the applicable Facility Use Policy, as governed by the proposed flight location.

To request an exception for **research, educational, or service purposes**, the requestor must contact the Export Compliance Officer in the [Office of Regulatory Compliance](#) and complete the University required checklist for use of UAS for research or educational purposes.

Violations of this policy will result in immediate notification of University or applicable local law enforcement. University or local law enforcement will immediately notify the local FAA Regional Operation Center. The FAA may take enforcement action against anyone who conducts or operates a UAS in a way that endangers the safety of the national airspace system, up to and including civil penalties and fines. In addition, the University or local law enforcement agency may pursue criminal charges.

## C. DEFINITIONS

**Compelling Circumstances** means, for the purposes of this policy, those facts that convince the institution's Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance that the use of UAS is (1) necessary or crucial to further the mission of the University; and (2) there is no other viable alternative to using the UAS to achieve the stated goal or purpose.

**Unmanned Aircraft System** ("UAS") means, for the purposes of this policy, an aircraft that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft and associated elements (including communication links and the components that control the unmanned aircraft) that are required for the pilot in command to operate safely and efficiently. This includes, but is not limited to, any unmanned aircraft system that is designated as a "model aircraft" by the Federal Aviation Authority.

## Notes

1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:  
January 1, 2016: Adopted by the Chancellors  
February 15, 2019: Modified
2. History:  
February 15, 2019: Modified to reflect a Campus-wide effort to recast and revitalize various Campus policy sites into a standardized and more coherent set of chaptered policy statements organized around the several operational divisions of the university. Links verified.
3. Initial Policy Effective Date: January 1, 2016
4. Cross References/Appendix: N/A