

Drone Safety Guidelines

Towson University currently allows drone flights on campus for academic and business-related purposes only. All recreational drone and model aircraft flights on or above university property are strictly prohibited.

To ensure safety and adherence to 14 CFR Part 107 (FAA, Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems), all flights on campus must be reviewed and approved by the Drone Committee at least seven business days in advance of the proposed flight date.

There are a few restrictions and requirements for approval:

- Must be a certified pilot
- Must have drone registered with the FAA
- No indoor flights (Buildings, Parking Structures, Outdoor Pavilions, etc.)
- No flights over crowds, individuals, or vehicles
- No flights over 400 ft. above ground level
- No flights over campus areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as dorms, childcare, etc.

For approval, please complete the [Drone Application](#) and provide supporting documents to drones@towson.edu. The application should include applicable documents such as drone registration, license, proof of insurance (only for non-TU faculty/staff), and flight map. Once approved, you will be provided a drone permit you must keep on you at all times.

Additional Operating Requirements

Before the flight, the operator should:

- Have a flight plan prepared with takeoff/landing area(s) and an emergency secondary landing area, should the former have an unexpected issue.
- Inspect the aircraft for visible defects while powered off.
- Once aircraft is powered on, check for charged batteries, signal loss, updated software/firmware, flight computers, and a fully functioning remote controller.
- Check connected devices (e.g. phones, tablets) for issues and data storage capability.
- Check for temporary flight restrictions (TFRs), notice to air missions (NOTAMs), and sectional charts for any unexpected airspace authorizations that may be required.
- Check weather forecast from nearest airport of flight area and confirm that conditions allow for safe flight, and Kp index for atmospheric magnetic disturbances.
- Make note of all potential flight obstructions and be familiar with the area of operation.

During the flight:

- The operator should hover aircraft above ground at a safe distance and height to check for defects, signal loss, or any other issue prior to reaching maximum planned altitude.
- The aircraft should remain within the line of sight of the operator during the entire flight.
- The aircraft should be flown during daytime hours (between sunrise and sunset).
- The operator will ground the aircraft immediately, if flight conditions are unsafe due to weather or other emergency.
- The operator should be alert, attentive, and operate the aircraft in a safe manner.
- Operations will not fly over emergency response activity.
- The operator will not endanger the property of others and will maintain 50 feet distance from aboveground utility lines.
- The operator is limited to one aircraft operating at a time.
- The operator may not operate aircraft from a moving vehicle.
- The operator should stay clear of no-fly zones and bystanders.
- The operator should track battery life, signal strength, altitude, and other vital information about the aircraft during the flight to maintain safe conditions.

After the flight, the operator should:

- Turn the aircraft off.
- Inspect parts for damage or depletion prior to storage.
- Perform maintenance as necessary.

Further instructions can be found at the FAA website for drones here:

<https://www.faa.gov/newsroom/small-unmanned-aircraft-systems-uas-regulations-part-107?newsId=22615>