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I. GENERAL

Central Carolina Community College recognizes that the operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), also referred to as drones, is popular for both recreational and educational usage. The College shall establish procedures to ensure the safe operation of unmanned aircraft systems in and around College campuses and shall ensure compliance with federal law, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, state and local laws and other College policies.

This policy applies to all members of the College community, including but not limited to employees, students, clubs, organizations, vendors and third-party contractors, and any other individuals who are operating a UAS as part of their employment or as part of any College-related activity. This policy also applies to any person or entity not affiliated with the College who may operate a UAS on College property or land. This includes recreational and non-recreational aircraft operations. Any person operating a UAS on or above College property is personally responsible and bears sole responsibility for complying with FAA regulations; federal, state, county and municipal laws, and all College policies, including but not limited to those set out in this Policy.

II. APPROVED & UNAPPROVED USES

A. Instructional Use

Instructional use is defined as use of a drone as part of a college-approved curriculum, continuing education, or other similar course or program. Instructional use may include a course

or program involving training in how to use a drone or using a drone in support of other educational objectives.

Operation of a UAS for instructional purposes by the College, the College's employees, or vendors contracted by the College shall be permitted in accordance with procedures developed by the Vice President of Student Services and General Counsel, who are hereby empowered to write said procedures in furtherance of this policy. Instructional use that does not comply with this policy or the procedures may result in disciplinary action or termination of the vendor relationship.

B. Commercial Use

Commercial use is defined as the use of a drone for commercial or business purposes, including but not limited to the capturing and production of photographs or video recordings, assisting with construction projects, security and law enforcement activities, on-campus promotional activities, and other projects in furtherance of the College's business operations that are not instructional in nature.

Operation of a UAS for commercial purposes by the College, the College's employees, or vendors contracted by the College shall be permitted in accordance with procedures developed by the Vice President of Student Services and General Counsel, who are hereby empowered to write said procedures in furtherance of this policy. Commercial use that does not comply with this policy or the procedures may result in disciplinary action or termination of the vendor relationship.

C. Recreational Use

Recreational use is defined as any use of a drone that is not either instructional use or commercial use.

Operation of a UAS for recreational use by any individual or entity, whether College-related or not, is prohibited.

D. Law Enforcement Exception

Nothing contained in this policy shall be construed to limit or otherwise prohibit the lawful use of a UAS by a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency. When a law enforcement agency is operating a drone on College property in connection with education or training being provided by the College, this Policy shall govern the use of the drone. When a law enforcement agency is operating a drone to carry out law enforcement activities, whether at the request of the College or not, the policies and procedures of the law enforcement agency shall govern the use of the drone. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this subsection, a local, state, or federal law enforcement agency desiring to use a UAS on College property should contact the Vice President of Student Services or General Counsel, when feasible.

III. PRIVACY

UAS operators shall comply with all federal, state and local privacy laws and regulations, as well as all College policies governing privacy.

When operating a UAS for the purpose of recording or transmitting visual images, operators bear sole responsibility for all legal risk and must take all reasonable measures to avoid privacy violations and to avoid recording or otherwise introducing the UAS into areas normally considered private. A UAS shall not be used to monitor or record areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. These areas include but are not limited to restrooms, locker rooms, and changing or dressing rooms.

A UAS shall not be used to monitor or record sensitive institutional or personal information, such as information that may be found in an individual's workspace, on a computer, or on other electronic displays.

IV. UAS AND ASSOCIATED ACCESSORIES REQUIREMENTS

College UAS pilots must satisfy the following requirements prior to proposed UAS operations:

- Ensure that the UAS proposed to be used in the UAS operations is appropriately marked and registered. As of the date of this document, all UAS over 0.55 pound (250 grams) must be registered with the FAA and marked with the assigned registration number visible on the external body of the drone. Registration numbers may not be underneath a drone battery or other external UAS feature that would restrict visibility of the registration number. Compliance with registration and marking requirements – and all other registration and marking requirements in effect at the time of proposed UAS operations – is strictly required, and the College UAS pilot shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring such compliance.
- Ensure that the UAS and its associated accessories (including any battery, remote control and/or external device attached thereto) is fully functional by performing a comprehensive inspection of the UAS, including (but not limited to) verifying that all available safety features on the UAS, such as return-to-home and obstacle avoidance functionality, are enabled.
- Engage in pre-flight contingency planning, which includes considering safe alternative routes or landing sites in the event of the following:
    - System failure
    - Degraded performance
    - Lost communication with the UAS
    - Lost visual line of sight with the UAS
    - Unavailability of original take-off/landing site
    - Changes in weather conditions
    - Prohibited operations

V. COMPLIANCE

Unless approved or operated in identified and designated areas, no person or entity shall operate a UAS on, in, or over any part of the College campus. This prohibition includes commercial

flyers conducting commercial photography or filming without first having requested and received approval from the College.

No person may operate a UAS weighing more than 55 pounds, regardless of FAA approval, without first obtaining permission from the College.

All UAS operators must ensure that their UAS is registered and marked as required under the then-current state laws and FAA rules and regulations. Operations with any non-compliant UAS are strictly prohibited.

VI. TERMINATION AUTHORITY & MISCELLANEOUS

The College reserves the right to terminate UAS permission or operations at any time and in its sole discretion.

The College reserves the right and full authority to interpret all aspects of this UAS policy in its sole discretion, provided, however, that this UAS policy may be construed and enforced only to the maximum extent possible without unlawfully impinging on overriding constitutional or other legal rights, if any. To the extent any provision of this UAS policy is found to be unenforceable, such provision shall be severed, and all remaining aspects of the UAS policy shall remain in full force and effect. A failure by the College to enforce one or more of the provisions of this UAS policy shall not constitute a waiver of such provisions, nor shall it constitute the College's approval of any non-compliant UAS operations, nor shall it cause the College to incur any liability as a result.

REFERENCES

Statutory References	N.C.G.S. Ch. 15A Art. 16B
Regulatory References	14 CFR Part 107
Relevant Guidance	None
Policy Manual Cross-References	Referenced by: ● Policy 2.1.5 - Criminal Activities & Law Enforcement Interactions

POLICY HISTORY

August 21, 2024	Adopted.
November 20, 2025	References updated to reflect repeal of N.C.G.S. Ch. 63 Art. 10.
February 10, 2026	Updated policy regarding the use of drones by law enforcement and whether College or law enforcement agency policy govern. Renumbered policy for organizational efficiency.