



OPERATION OF DRONES/UNMANNED SERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS)

(UPDATED JANUARY 2026)

Purpose

To define the requirements for the use of drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and/or unmanned serial systems (UASs), on Wofford College-owned or -controlled property in compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and all applicable federal, state and local laws as well as Wofford College policies.

Scope

Drones, UAVs and UASs (hereafter collectively referred to as “drones”) are defined as any contrivance invented, used or designed to navigate or fly in the air that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft. The scope of this policy applies to, but may not be limited to, the operation of drones on Wofford College property, including the Goodall Environmental Studies Center at Glendale, S.C.; college-controlled property or for college-affiliated events held elsewhere (hereafter collectively referred to as “college property”).

Wofford Policies

To ensure the safety and privacy rights of individuals and ensure the legal operation of drones on college property, the use of all drones must be approved by the Wofford Office of Marketing and Communications (OMC).

The FAA is responsible for regulating and overseeing the use of all aircraft, including drones, and recognizes that drones may be used for recreational/hobby purposes or for commercial use. Drone users must be registered and/or certified by the FAA for the appropriate purpose.

All persons requesting to use a drone for any purpose on college property are personally responsible for compliance with current FAA regulations, state and federal laws, and college policies.

The use of personal drones for hobby, recreation, campus activities or coursework on college property is prohibited.

Before operating on Wofford College property, users are required to:

- Contact the office of Regional One Air Medical at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center at 864-560-1363 to inform them of the flight scheduled, including the date, time and specific campus location(s). (Regional One usually is willing to contact the GSP International Airport FBO in Greer, Cerulean Aviation, and Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport. Cerulean Aviation contact number is 864-655-5221.)
 - Contact the Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport with the same information, if Regional One is not contacting. FBO, 864-574-8552; after hours, 864-347-2304.
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Drones may not be operated on college property at a height of more than 200 feet.

Users are specifically prohibited from operating drones over or near Gibbs Stadium, Snyder Field or athletics practice fields without specific approval in writing from the Office of Marketing and Communications AND the Department of Athletics.

These policies apply to any contractor or third-party drone operator contracted by any personnel of any office at Wofford College.

Any use of a drone on campus or properties described above must be approved by the Wofford Office of Marketing and Communications. The decision regarding approval or disapproval of the request is at the sole discretion of the vice president of marketing and communications.

Contact:

Dudley Brown

Director of Communications

Office: 864-597-4538

Cell: 864-621-8893

Email: marketing@wofford.edu

Requests to operate a drone on Wofford College property must be made at least three (3) weeks before the requested date for the operation.

The user must provide:

Name

Company name

Address

Telephone number

Email address

Date/time requested

Purpose of activity

The user will be required to sign an agreement that includes, but may not be limited to, these provisions:

- The operation of unmanned aircraft systems, including drones and model aircraft, requires compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), relevant state laws and Wofford College established procedures in order to ensure compliance with those legal obligations and to reduce risk to safety, security and privacy.
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OPERATION OF DRONES/UNMANNED SERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) (CONT.)

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- The user will be responsible for obtaining and paying for the license required to operate the drone on college property.
 - In operating a drone for the purposes of recording or transmitting visual images, the user must take all reasonable measures to avoid violations of areas normally considered private. The UAS 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, locker rooms, individual residential rooms, changing or dressing rooms, and health treatment rooms.
 - The drone may not be used in indoors areas.
 - The drone may not be used over groups of people.
 - The user assumes all risks that may or can arise out of operating a drone on the college campus or other properties described herein.
 - The user agrees to indemnify, keep, save and hold Wofford College, its Board of Trustees, officers, directors, agents, employees, subcontractors or assignees, harmless for any direct, indirect, special or consequential damages connected to this activity that may occur as a result of any act or omission by the college from and against any and all liabilities, damages, losses, claims, expenses, demands, suits, fines or judgments, including attorney's fees, costs and expenses incidental thereto and to the full extent as allowed by the laws of the state of South Carolina. In the event of any such injury, including death, loss, damage or claims therefore, the user shall give prompt notice to the college.
 - The user hereby releases, waives and discharges the college for any and all liability associated with operating the drone on college property. This waiver and release are intended to include all claims for injuries, accidents, illnesses or property loss, whether known or unknown or anticipated or unanticipated.
 - If the user intends to, and does, take photographs or videos during the use of the drone on Wofford College property, the user agrees to provide Wofford College with copies of said photographs/video free of charge and agrees to allow the college to use said photographs/video for any purpose the college deems appropriate without further compensation.
 - The user hereby agrees that this agreement shall be construed in accordance to the laws of the state of South Carolina.
 - If any term or provision of this agreement shall be held illegal, unenforceable or in conflict with any law governing this agreement, the validity of the remaining portions shall not be affected thereby.
 - Copies of applicable FAA registrations/certifications and proof of insurance must be provided to the college before the user receives approval.
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