

# Unmanned Flying Vehicles (UFVs) at Stanford University-FAQs

New federal regulations governing unmanned flying vehicles (UFVs) were enacted in 2016. To address these regulations and provide for ongoing research, educational, and University business use of UFVs, policy and guidance governing the proposed use of UFVs at Stanford or by Stanford community members is now in place at Chapter 7.10 of Stanford's Research Policy Handbook. The FAQs below will help guide persons interested in learning more about the use of UFVs at Stanford.

1. Can anyone fly an UFV at the University?

No. Third Parties are prohibited from flying UFVs from within or above University lands. For the purposes of this policy, current faculty, students, staff, or other persons acting on behalf of the University pursuant to an approved agreement (or "Approved Vendors") are not "Third Parties," and may fly UFVs with the approval of the UFV Committee. All other persons or entities are Third Parties and are prohibited from flying UFVs from within or above University lands.

2. Are there any restrictions on flying UFVs at the University?

UFVs may be flown by faculty, students, staff, and Approved Vendors *if and only if* the flight is approved in advance by the University's UFV Committee in addition to any other applicable entities within the University, the flight has a nexus to the University's mission or community, and the flight adheres to any limits prescribed by the UFV Committee to ensure safety and compliance with all applicable laws.

3. Do you have to be a member of the Stanford community to be able to fly UFVs from or over Stanford land?

Yes, the policy applies to faculty, students, or staff seeking to pursue the following activities:

- Research and development or data collection by flying UFVs in the pursuit of their University duties, whether on or off University property;
- UFV flight as a part of their University courses, or research activities, whether on or off University property;
- Agreements or other arrangements for Approved Vendors and other persons to fly UFVs on behalf of the University (such as for aerial photography, or for any of the reasons above), whether on or off University property; and
- Model aircraft or other UFV flight from within or above University property for recreational or hobby purposes (which will require membership in a University sanctioned hobbyist club).

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**All other persons or entities are prohibited** from flying UFVs from within or above University lands.

4. I comply with the FAA regulations, or have an applicable exemption, do I need to do anything else to fly at the University? Why?

Stanford University has a strong interest in ensuring that its private property and facilities are used in support of its mission and in a manner that is not harmful to it or its surrounding community. In addition, UFV's may be regulated by agencies other than the FAA (including state and local entities) for reasons of safety, privacy, national security, or environmental reasons. For example, certain UFV's may include components that are regulated for export control purposes as defense articles, and foreign national access restrictions may apply. Stanford, by policy, maintains an open campus where all members of its community may participate fully in activities associated with its research and educational mission regardless of citizenship.

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As such, an application must be submitted and approved by the UFV Committee regardless of whether the applicant complies with FAA regulations.

5. If I am a student hobbyist, can I fly anywhere?

Stanford students who wish to fly UFVs on University property must comply with the UFV policy, including being a member of a University sanctioned hobbyist club, and meeting the requirements of the club and this policy. Currently Stanford has an active student organization, Stanford Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Enthusiasts Engineers and Entrepreneurs (SUAVE) that is open to any currently registered Stanford student. With active membership and training, members of SUAVE can fly UFVs in pre-approved locations.

6. What if I see a drone flying around the University, and I'm not sure whether it has been approved for flight?

Approved operators required to carry a Certificate of Permission from the UFV Committee on their persons. If you have concerns, call the Stanford Department of Public Safety (DPS) communications line at 650-329-2413.

7. Where can I find a map of no fly zone areas?

The map is available here: <https://doresearch.stanford.edu/resources/tools-documents/ufv-use-restrictions-no-fly-zone-map>

8. What if I see a drone flying dangerously close to people or posing serious imminent dangers?

Call 911 or the DPS communications line at 650-329-2413 to report the observation.

9. In general, which areas are flight-restricted or require exceptional circumstances for approval?

Flights are generally not permissible in locations such as the Oval, Main Quad, Memorial Court, the Central Energy Facility, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, in the vicinity of a highway or road, above public venues or thoroughfares, and in the vicinity of hospitals or airports.

10. What kind of components, payloads, or modifications are not allowed?

Stanford University will generally not approve flight requests for UFV's that include commercial components or payloads that are regulated under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) as export controlled defense articles. Because Stanford's foreign national community is prohibited from openly flying UFV's entailing commercial ITAR controlled components or payload, or UFV's that are modified for a specific military or intelligence gathering purpose, the University will not sanction flights that would run counter to its policies on openness and nondiscrimination.

Additional information about the ITAR and Stanford's export control program is available at <https://doresearch.stanford.edu/topics/export-controls-overview>.

11. How long will my approval be valid?

The Committee will approve only the necessary duration for the proposed activity. Recurring flight approvals may be requested. Maximum period of approval for ongoing activities will be for one year.

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12. Do I need approval even though I am not flying above University lands? What if I'm flying outside the U.S.?

If you are flying on behalf of the University, as part of your duties, or as part of your course/curriculum, you need approval regardless of whether you are flying above University lands in light of risks associated with this activity and complex regulations. Rules outside the U.S. vary widely, and you may be expected to show an understanding of foreign requirements and evidence of compliance with foreign requirements in your application.