

Policy Name:	Drone Policy – Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)				
Section Number:	5.17	Section Title:	Student Affairs		
Policy Owner:	Executive Vice President of Athletics and Student Affairs	Last updated:	March 2025	Reviewed:	March 2025
Status:	Active	Due for Review:	March 2030		

Policy Statement

Jones County Junior College (Jones or College) prohibits the operation of drones, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), and model aircraft on or above College property without prior authorization. Any authorized drone use must comply with all applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, Mississippi state laws, and College policies. Unauthorized drone flights are subject to disciplinary action and/or legal consequences.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- College employees and students operating UAS under FAA Part 107 regulations as part of their employment or academic activities.
- Any individual operating UAS or model aircraft on or above College property.
- The purchase of UAS with College, grant, or foundation funding.
- The hiring or contracting of UAS services by any College department.

Procedures Statement

The operation of UAS, including drones and model aircraft, is regulated under FAA and Mississippi state law. This document establishes procedures to ensure compliance with these laws while mitigating safety, security, and privacy risks. Recreational use of UAS on campus is prohibited.

Jones College must comply with FAA Part 107 requirements, Remote ID regulations, Mississippi state law, and local regulations governing drone operations. Additionally, all drone operations on campus require appropriate insurance and policy considerations.

Federal and State Compliance Requirements

Federal Laws (FAA Regulations)

- 14 CFR Part 107 Governs commercial UAS operations (under 55lbs), requiring pilot certification, airspace authorization, and operational limitations.
- 14 CFR Part 89 – Mandates Remote Identification (Remote ID) compliance.
- 14 CFR Part 91 & Part 135 – Governs large UAS operations (over 55lbs) and commercial air carrier drone services.
- FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 – Requires drone registration and prohibits weaponized drones.
- Public Aircraft Operations (49 U.S.C. § 40102(a)) – Requires government and public safety drones to obtain a Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA).

Mississippi State Laws

- Miss. Code Ann. § 97-29-61 (Voyeurism Law) – Prohibits drone use to invade privacy, imposing penalties of up to 5 years in prison (10 years if the victim is under 16). Additionally, the law was amended in 2015 to classify unauthorized drone surveillance as a felony.
- Miss. Code Ann §§ 69-21-101 to 69-21-128 (Agriculture Aviation Licensing Law) – Regulates the use of drones for agricultural purposes, ensuring compliance with FAA and state safety guidelines.

Federal Requirements for UAS Operations

All UAS operations on Jones College property must comply with FAA regulations to ensure safety and legality.

Procedure

The Executive Vice President of Athletics and Student Affairs is the designated authority responsible for overseeing all UAS (drone) operations on Jones College property. The EVP ensures compliance with FAA regulations, Mississippi laws, and College policies, approves drone use requests, and maintains records of authorized UAS operations. All drone operators must follow the procedures outlined below.

Authorization & Requirements:

1. College-Affiliated UAS Operators (Employees & Students)
 - Must provide a Certificate of Aircraft Registration.
 - Must comply with FAA Part 107 regulations.
 - Must obtain a Part 107 Waiver for operations exceeding standard FAA rules.
 - Must coordinate with the EVP of Athletics and Student Affairs for approval.
2. Third-Party Operators (Contractors, Vendors, Visitors)
 - Must receive approval from the EVP of Athletics and Student Affairs before operating on campus. The following must be presented when requesting approval:
 1. Proof of FAA approval.
 2. Contract indemnifying the College from liability.
 3. Insurance coverage as required by the EVP of Athletics and Student Affairs.
3. EVP of Athletics and Student Affairs Responsibilities

- Maintains a registry of College-owned UAS.
- Reviews UAS use requests and ensures regulatory compliance.
- Collects Certificates of Aircraft Registration and Operator Certificates.

Appropriate and Prohibited Uses

UAS may be used in the furtherance of College research, academic pursuits, and commercial endeavors that benefit the College mission.

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, health treatment rooms, and private residential properties.

UAS shall not be used to monitor or record residential hallways, residential lounges, or the insides of campus daycare facilities.

UAS shall not be used to monitor or record sensitive institutional or personal information which may be found, for example, on computer or other electronic displays in an individual's workspace.

Penalties and Fines for UAS Violations

Jones College will fully cooperate with federal, state, and local authorities in the investigation and enforcement of any violations of this policy. In cases where drone operations breach FAA regulations, Mississippi state laws, or College policies, the College will report such incidents to the appropriate agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), law enforcement, and other regulatory bodies. Unauthorized drone use that poses a security risk, privacy violation, or safety hazard may result in disciplinary action, legal consequences, and potential criminal prosecution as determined by the relevant authorities.

Sanctions

Violations of this policy will be addressed under College disciplinary procedures and may result in:

- Disciplinary action (up to termination or expulsion).
- Legal action, including trespassing violations and criminal charges.
- Revocation of contractor/vendor privileges.
- Fines and damages, which will not be covered by the College.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Jones County Junior College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability in its programs, activities, or employment practices. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and grievances regarding the non-discrimination policies: (ADA/ Section 504) Sarah Jones, Director of Counseling & ADA Coordinator, Student Affairs, phone 601-477-4070; email ADACoordinator@jcc.edu and (Title IX) Dr. Brittany Barron, Title IX Coordinator, Hutcheson Hubbard Administration Building, phone 601-477-4127; email brittany.weatherford@jcc.edu. Jones County Junior College, 900 South Court Street, Ellisville, MS 39437.

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