

**LP 11.4**

Effective:
9/3/2026

Revised:

Policy Owner:
Board of Trustees

Policy Administrator:
VP for Marketing and
Communications

Affected Parties:
Anyone operating drones
on university-owned or
controlled property or for
university activities.

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Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS/Drone)

1 Purpose

Lander University recognizes that unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly referred to as drones, can provide significant value for marketing and communications, photography, videography, research, academic instruction, facilities management, public safety, and other official university activities.

This policy establishes requirements for the safe, responsible, and lawful operation of drones on university-owned or university-controlled property while protecting the safety, privacy, and interests of the Lander University community.

2 Applicability

2.1 This policy applies to:

2.1.1 All Lander University faculty, staff, and students.

2.1.2 University departments and offices.

2.1.3 Contractors, vendors, and consultants.

2.1.4 Third-party organizations and individuals operating drones on university-owned or university-controlled property or for university activities.

3 Regulatory Compliance

3.1 All drone operations must comply with:

3.1.1 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations.

3.1.2 The South Carolina Drone Regulation and Public Safety Act.

3.1.3 All other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

3.2 Drone operators are responsible for maintaining any required:

3.2.1 FAA registration.

3.2.2 Remote Pilot Certificate (Part 107), when applicable.

3.2.3 The Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST) certification for recreational operations.

3.2.4 Remote ID compliance.

3.2.5 FAA airspace authorizations or waivers required for the proposed operation.

4 Approval Process

4.1 All drone flights on university-owned or university-controlled property, or conducted on behalf of Lander University, require prior approval from University Marketing & Communications.

4.2 Whenever possible, requests should be submitted at least five (5) business days before the planned flight.

4.2.1 Requests should include:

4.2.1.1 Date and anticipated time of flight.

4.2.1.2 Flight location(s).

4.2.1.3 Purpose of the flight.

4.2.1.4 Name and contact information of the operator.

4.2.1.5 FAA certification information, if applicable.

4.2.1.6 Drone manufacturer and model.

4.2.1.7 Planned takeoff and landing locations.

4.3 University Marketing & Communications will coordinate any necessary approvals with Campus Police, Facilities, Athletics, Event Services, or other university departments as appropriate.

CONTACT:

University Marketing & Communications
864-388-8019
marcom@lander.edu

- 4.4 Emergency or time-sensitive requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

5 University-owned Drones

- 5.1 University-owned drones may only be operated by individuals authorized by the appropriate university department and approved through University Marketing & Communications.
- 5.2 Departments are responsible for ensuring that operators possess the appropriate training, certifications, and experience necessary for the intended operation.

6 Official University Operations

- 6.1 Departments conducting drone operations for official university business must:
 - 6.1.1 Obtain approval before the flight.
 - 6.1.2 Operate in compliance with all applicable laws and FAA regulations.
 - 6.1.3 Coordinate with affected departments when necessary.
 - 6.1.4 Conduct operations in a manner that protects the safety and privacy of university students, employees, and visitors, as well as university property.
 - 6.1.5 Avoid disrupting university operations or events.

7 Academic Research Operations

- 7.1 Faculty, staff, and students conducting drone operations for instructional or research purposes must comply with this policy and with any other applicable research, safety, or academic requirements.

8 Contractors and Third-party Operators

- 8.1 Contractors, consultants, vendors, photographers, videographers, and other third-party operators conducting drone flights on behalf of Lander University or on university-controlled property must:
 - 8.1.1 Receive approval from University Marketing & Communications before the flight.
 - 8.1.2 Comply with all FAA regulations and applicable laws.
 - 8.1.3 Follow all university safety requirements and operational restrictions.
 - 8.1.4 Maintain insurance coverage in an amount and form acceptable to the university and provide proof of insurance when requested by the university.
- 8.2 Lander University reserves the right to require additional insurance coverage or documentation based on the nature of the proposed operation.

9 Recreational Use

- 9.1 University faculty, staff, and students wishing to operate drones for personal or recreational purposes on university-owned or university controlled property must obtain prior approval from University Marketing & Communications.
- 9.2 Recreational drone use may be restricted or prohibited during:
 - 9.2.1 University events.
 - 9.2.2 Athletic competitions.
 - 9.2.3 Commencement ceremonies.
 - 9.2.4 Orientation and move-in activities.
 - 9.2.5 Construction projects.
 - 9.2.6 Emergency situations.
 - 9.2.7 Any other circumstances where safety, privacy, or university operations may be impacted.

10 Photography, Recording, and Privacy

10.1 Drone operators must respect the privacy of university students, employees, visitors, and neighboring properties.

10.1.1 Drone operations may not:

10.1.1.1 Intentionally photograph, record, or monitor individuals in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

10.1.1.2 Interfere with university operations or emergency response activities.

10.1.1.3 Harass individuals or wildlife.

10.2 Photographs, videos, and other content captured on behalf of Lander University may be subject to university policies regarding ownership, records retention, accessibility, and applicable public records laws.

11 Safety Requirements

11.1 Drone operations must not:

11.1.1 Endanger persons or property.

11.1.2 Operate over large gatherings of people unless specifically authorized and permitted under applicable FAA regulations.

11.1.3 Operate during severe weather or unsafe flying conditions.

11.1.4 Operate in restricted or controlled airspace without appropriate FAA authorization.

11.1.5 Interfere with emergency response activities.

11.1.6 Operate drones in a careless or reckless manner.

11.2 Drone operations over athletic events, commencement ceremonies, concerts, festivals, or other large university gatherings are prohibited unless specifically approved by University Marketing & Communications and all applicable FAA requirements have been satisfied.

12 Suspension of Operations

- 12.1 Lander University reserves the right to deny, suspend, or immediately terminate any drone operation that presents a safety, security, privacy, operational, or reputational concern, or that violates university policy, FAA regulations, or applicable law.

13 Enforcement

- 13.1 Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

- 13.1.1 Suspension or revocation of drone operating privileges.
- 13.1.2 Removal from university property.
- 13.1.3 Student or employee disciplinary action under applicable university policies.
- 13.1.4 Cancellation of contracted work.
- 13.1.5 Referral to law enforcement or the FAA when appropriate.

14 Questions

Questions regarding this policy or requests for drone flight approval should be directed to:

University Marketing & Communications
864-388-8019
marcom@lander.edu

15 Policy Revision History

- First draft of policy created by VP for Marketing and Communications on 8/10/2026.
- Final revisions applied by Policy Coordinator on 8/10/2026.
- Reviewed by Board of Trustees Policy Committee on 8/11/2026.
- Approved by the Lander University Board of Trustees on 9/1/2026.