

Become a Drone Pilot

In order to fly your drone under the FAA's Small UAS Rule (Part 107), you must obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate from the FAA. This certificate demonstrates that you understand the regulations, operating requirements, and procedures for safely flying drones. This certification requires 2 exams:

- The FAA Part 107 Exam aka aeronautical knowledge test and,
- To fly for a Conservation District, you must also take the State Exam to become a commercial and government operator upon completion of the Part 107 exam.

Valid for 2 years. Certificate holders must pass a recurrent knowledge test every two years

Step 1: Obtain an FAA Tracking Number (FTN) by creating an Integrated Airman Certification and Rating Application (IACRA) profile prior to registering for a knowledge test. *Basically, make a profile online.*

Step 2: Schedule an appointment with a Knowledge Testing Center which administer initial and recurrent FAA knowledge exams. Be sure to bring a government-issued photo ID to your test. *Many testing centers are at your local airport.*

Step 3: Pass the initial aeronautical knowledge test. *Many study guides and resources can be found online or there are trainings available for a fee. Youtube was my best resource in preparing for the exam!*

Step 4: Complete FAA Form 8710-13 for a remote pilot certificate (FAA Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application) using the electronic FAA Integrated Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application system (IACRA)*

Register using the FAA IACRA system

Login with username and password

Click on "Start New Application" and 1) Application Type "Pilot", 2) Certifications "Remote Pilot", 3) Other Path Information, 4) Start Application

Follow application prompts

When prompted, enter the 17-digit Knowledge Test Exam ID (NOTE: it may take up to 48 hours from the test date for the knowledge test to appear in IACRA)

Sign the application electronically and submit for processing. *This takes a few weeks.*

Step 5: A confirmation email will be sent when an applicant has completed the TSA security background check. This email will provide instructions for printing a copy of the temporary remote pilot certificate from IACRA. *You are able to fly with your temporary certificate. It takes a few more weeks to get the permanent one in the mail.*

Step 6: A permanent remote pilot certificate will be sent via mail once all other FAA-internal processing is complete.

Step 7: Have your Remote Pilot Certificate available whenever you fly your UAS

Commercial and Government drone operators must also take and pass the N.C. Department of Transportation's Unmanned Aircraft System Operator's Knowledge Test

Useful links/resources:

For testing instructions and details:

FAA - https://www.faa.gov/uas/commercial_operators/become_a_drone_pilot/

NC DOT - <https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/aviation/uas/Pages/default.aspx>

There are many study guides, sample exams, and Youtube tutorials available, below are some of the most useful for me:

FAA Study Guide -

https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation/media/remote_pilot_study_guide.pdf

Helpful Study Guide PPT -

[https://rmgsc.cr.usgs.gov/outgoing/UAS/FAA_study_guides/FAA%20Part%20107%20UAS%20Study%20Materials\(Kelsey%20Mason%20UTE\).pdf](https://rmgsc.cr.usgs.gov/outgoing/UAS/FAA_study_guides/FAA%20Part%20107%20UAS%20Study%20Materials(Kelsey%20Mason%20UTE).pdf)

FAA Part 107 Practice Test -

https://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/test_questions/media/uag_sample_exam.pdf

FAA Part 107 Practice Test Answer Explanations - <http://jrupprechtlaw.com/part-107-knowledge-test>

Youtube links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_ucCKFJUCU - This one was the most useful overall.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IEjiWiff5E> - This one helps familiarize yourself with the wording of the exam questions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe0IEN9g1hQ> - This one is short and super helpful.

Workshops and Training:

NCSU - <https://cnr.ncsu.edu/geospatial/uas-workshop/>

NC Drone Summit - <https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/Pages/UAS-Events.aspx>