

WSR 25-06-075

PROPOSED RULES

PIERCE COLLEGE

[Filed March 4, 2025, 11:03 a.m.]

Original Notice.

Preproposal statement of inquiry was filed as WSR 25-02-100.

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: Drone and model aircraft policy.

Hearing Location(s): On April 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., via Teams at <https://tinyurl.com/2wceuw23>.

Date of Intended Adoption: June 13, 2025.

Submit Written Comments to: Danielle Evans, 9401 Farwest Drive S.W., Lakewood, WA 98498, email [devans@pierce.ctc.edu](mailto:devans@pierce.ctc.edu), by April 14, 2025.

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities: Contact access and disability services, phone 253-964-6468, email [ads@pierce.ctc.edu](mailto:ads@pierce.ctc.edu), by March 27, 2025.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: Pierce College is engaging in the proposed rule-making process to establish a drone and model aircraft policy.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: Pierce College is engaging with the rule-making process to create procedures, which maintain compliance with Federal Aviation Administration guidelines and requirements, to promote the safe and responsible use of unmanned aircraft systems.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Statute Being Implemented: RCW 28B.50.140(13).

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Public.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting and Implementation: Danielle Evans, Pierce College District, 253-912-2290; Enforcement: Vice President for Technology and Infrastructure, Pierce College District, 253-964-6434.

A school district fiscal impact statement is not required under RCW 28A.305.135.

A cost-benefit analysis is not required under RCW 34.05.328. The proposed rule will not impose any costs for the institution.

Scope of exemption for rule proposal from Regulatory Fairness Act requirements:

Is not exempt.

The proposed rule does not impose more-than-minor costs on businesses. Following is a summary of the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated. The proposed rule will not impose any costs for the institution.

March 3, 2025  
Julie A. White  
Chancellor and CEO

RDS-6198.1

Chapter 132K-240 WAC

## DRONE AND MODEL AIRCRAFT POLICY

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132K-240-010 Scope.** These rules govern the use of drones and model aircraft on or above all property owned, rented, leased, and operationally controlled by Pierce College by:

- (1) All faculty, employees, students, contractors, and college volunteers operating.
- (2) Any person in operation of a drone or model aircraft.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132K-240-020 College approval required.** The operation of drones and model aircraft is regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and relevant state law. Pierce College is committed to ensuring compliance with those legal standards and reducing risks to safety, security, and privacy. The use of any drone or model aircraft either on or above college property or by a college employee or student during a college activity is prohibited, unless prior authorization for such use is obtained from the infrastructure department.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132K-240-030 Definitions.** For purposes of this policy, the following definitions are used:

- (1) "Drones," also referred to as unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), means an aircraft without a human pilot onboard as defined by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) but may be called an unmanned aerial vehicle, quadcopter, quadrotor, model aircraft, remotely piloted aircraft system or similar.
- (2) "Model aircraft" means unmanned aircraft systems that are used solely for hobby and/or recreational purposes. A model aircraft is capable of sustained flight and must be flown within the visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft.
- (3) "Official college business" means activities performed by faculty, students, staff, registered volunteers, or contractors as directed by the college to accomplish college business or programs as required by the duties of their position or office.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132K-240-040 Exceptions.** The following are exceptions from required prior authorization:

- (1) First responder operations conducted in accordance with applicable laws.
- (2) Approved college staff operators that are on official college business for use in public safety purposes which include, but are not

limited to, inspection of buildings, rooftops, trees, or other areas of concern that may pose an immediate threat to the health and safety of students and employees.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132K-240-050 College use of drones.** The use of drones on or above college property will only be for official college business by employees, students, or third-party contractors of the college when granted authorization to do so.

Any college employee or student who wishes to operate a drone as part of their college employment, or an official college activity, or third-party contractor must first have approval by the infrastructure department. There is no authorized use of drones on college Joint Base Lewis McChord locations.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132K-240-060 Noncollege use of drones.** Recreational use of drones is prohibited from operating on or above college property.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132K-240-070 College and noncollege use of model aircraft.** College or recreational use of model aircraft is prohibited from operating on or above college property.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132K-240-080 Prohibited locations.** Operators are prohibited in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy which include, but are not limited to, residence buildings or facilities, restrooms, changing and dressing rooms, counseling centers, day care centers, college offices and work areas, and similar locations.

NEW SECTION

**WAC 132K-240-090 Violations.** Any persons found in violation of this policy will be asked to cease flight operations. In the case of refusal, the college may trespass or pursue other legal action against persons found in violation. If the operator is a Pierce College employee or student, violations of college policy or procedure may also result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Damages resulting from the use of drones or model aircraft shall be the responsibility of the persons or units involved.