



Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Indoor Flight Skills Course

Course Date: February 24-25, 2026

Course Description

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) is committed to providing cutting-edge, contemporary training to public safety partners from across New York State. The DHSES UAS training program is at the forefront of this effort. Based on feedback from UAS stakeholders across the state, this two-day Indoor Flight Skills Course was created.

This course will include classroom instruction, skills lanes, and scenarios that emphasize various elements of indoor flight, including flying down hallways, into and out of rooms, up and down stairways, and from outdoors to indoors (and vice-versa). Scenario-based flying will be tailored to a variety of missions, including search and rescue, hazardous materials response, and law enforcement response efforts.

Course Objectives

The objectives of this pilot delivery include students obtaining:

- Greater understanding of aircraft capabilities, including limitations of platforms in indoor scenarios
- Awareness of different hazards and environmental issues that often occur indoors
- Enhanced ability to clear indoor obstacles such as doorways, ductwork, pipes, and wires
- Focus on lighting, including drone lighting, ambient lighting, and flight techniques using lighting
- Development of enhanced camera capabilities indoors, including camera usage, optics and thermal considerations, exposure settings, and indoor to outdoor transitions (and vice-versa)
- Focus on UAS platform app settings, including collision avoidance, return to home settings, and battery warnings
- Emphasis on increased attention to where a pilot is when flying – and how to get back to home position
- Ability to monitor hazardous materials indoors utilizing a UAS platform
- Ability to monitor audio indoors to support search and rescue missions
- Ability to support room clearing efforts through “hop-scotching” and “perching” techniques
- Attention to battery life during complex indoor flights

Course Provider

This course is provided by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) in conjunction with UAS experts from the New York State Police (NYSP), the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and NUAIR.

Location

State Preparedness Training Center
5900 Airport Road, Oriskany New York 13424

Cost

There is NO fee for this course. Lunch will be provided. Travel and all other meals are the responsibility of the course participant.

Times

February 24-25 2025: Check In (8:00am-8:30am), Course (8:30am-4:30pm)

Target Audience

This course is designed for experienced sUAS pilots. Interested candidates must:

- Maintain an active FAA Part 107 Certification

- Have completed the SPTC's UAS Basic Operator Course (or equivalent)

- Explain their flight time and experience (including indoor flight time and indoor flight time with the platform the student will bring to the course)

- Have access to a UAS platform that is appropriate for indoor flight
 - Candidates must provide the make/model of their platform during the registration process for instructor review.

- Be able to successfully complete the following functions on the UAS platform that will be utilized:
 - Return to Home
 - Collision Avoidance
 - Camera Exposure
 - Lighting for Sensors
 - Hovering and maneuvering in a GPS denied environment

- Be able to successfully complete the NIST sUAS Open Test Lane Flight
 - Note: This will be tested at the outset of the course. Details can be accessed online at: <https://www.nist.gov/el/intelligent-systems-division-73500/standard-test-methods-response-robots/aerial-systems/open-test>

The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) reserves the right to determine eligibility for this course.

Equipment Requirements

Each student accepted into this course must bring their own UAS platform that is appropriate for indoor flight. (You will be directed to provide the make and model of your platform during the registration process in LMS. This information will be reviewed to ensure the platform is appropriate for this course).

Students will also be required to:

- Bring extra propellers and prop guards
- Bring extra batteries and charging stations
- Have appropriate lighting for the platform being used
- Be cognizant of their own limitations in terms of indoor flight

Registration Process

Registration for this course will be handled via DHSES's Learning Management System (LMS). Please use the link below to access LMS and register for this course:

[Click here to register for the course](#)

If you need an LMS account or have any questions about LMS, please email LMS@dhses.ny.gov.

All student registrations will be reviewed by DHSES with approvals sent to students no later than two weeks prior to the start of the class. Registration does not guarantee a seat in the class. If you are accepted into the course, you will receive a confirmation email.

No Show Policy

Failure to attend a class you have registered for can result in restrict on future course attendance and agency notification.

Lodging

Lodging will be provided the nights of February 23 & 24, 2026 for participating public sector personnel.

You are eligible for lodging if your residence and official work station are more than 50 miles from the SPTC and you are a state or local responder. Lodging is not available for federal employees or private sector participants. You must be enrolled in the course and have received lodging confirmation from the SPTC before arriving at the Center, or your lodging will not be covered, and you will not be allowed in the class.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact the Robert Della Rocco - Robert.dellarocco@dhses.ny.gov