



**Northwestern  
Michigan College**



# Uncrewed Aerial Systems

**Explore the future of drone technology**

Cutting-edge facilities and equipment await you in Traverse City, MI!



# Pathways



CERTIFICATE



ASSOCIATE DEGREE



TRANSFER TO BACHELOR'S

## Connect with us



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## History of the program

NMC's Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) program, established in 2010, was the first drone program in Michigan. Students train with multirotor and fixed-wing aircraft, earn the FAA Part 107 remote pilot certificate, and practice applications in aerial photography, surveying, inspection, agriculture, and other fields. The program features small class sizes, experienced instructors, and a dedicated drone airfield, providing hands-on training for career opportunities in the growing UAS industry.



## Launch your drone career today, where innovation takes flight!

Drone technology is creating high-demand careers in agriculture, construction, energy, logistics, public safety, and more. From piloting to data analysis and inspections, UAS careers offer diverse paths with new opportunities emerging every day.

**\$91 B**  
INDUSTRY  
BY 2030

### AGRICULTURE

Drones enhance farming with crop monitoring, mapping, spraying, and plant health analysis. This technology boosts yields while reducing water, fertilizer, and pesticide use through precise, data-driven decisions.

### CONSTRUCTION

Drones improve construction by creating 3D maps, tracking progress, and inspecting sites safely. They save time, lower costs, and deliver accurate data for greater project efficiency and safety.

### ENERGY

Drones inspect turbines, solar panels, and power lines quickly and safely. They minimize downtime, reduce worker risk, and keep vital renewable and traditional energy systems operating efficiently.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Drones support search and rescue, accident reconstruction, and disaster response. They provide fast situational awareness, improve responder safety, and enhance outcomes during emergencies and community crises.

### LOGISTICS

Drones enable package delivery, inventory tracking, and supply chain monitoring. They streamline operations, cut costs, and create faster, more efficient systems for businesses and consumers alike.

### SCIENCE

Drones collect environmental data, map ecosystems, and monitor wildlife with accuracy. They equip researchers with powerful tools for conservation, discovery, and advancing scientific knowledge across disciplines.

# Are you ready to soar to new heights in the world of UAS?

NMC's UAS program gives students the resources to succeed with a dedicated drone airfield, hands-on labs, and expert faculty. At the airfield, students practice everything from basic flight to advanced missions such as agricultural spraying and catapult-launched fixed-wing operations. In the labs, students build airframes, integrate avionics, service engines, and program autopilots. Throughout the program, instructors provide personalized guidance to help students earn industry-leading certifications and prepare for rewarding careers.

## What to expect

- ▶ Certification as a Commercial UAS (Drone) Operator
- ▶ Training on a variety of systems from basic to advanced commercial-grade UAS equipment
- ▶ Learn how to use drones for specific uses in the industry such as:
  - > Aerial Photography
  - > Mapping and land survey
  - > Agriculture
  - > Industrial Inspections
  - > Advanced drone operations with long endurance aircraft
- ▶ Frequent and regular hands-on training in the field with UAS equipment
- ▶ Learning how to be marketable to the UAS industry

## Training Center

From advanced mapping to precision agriculture, NMC offers hands-on experience with a wide range of cutting-edge drone technologies. Here's a look at just some of the platforms our students learn.



### AGRAS

The DJI AGRAS gives students hands-on training in precision spraying and obstacle avoidance, preparing them for careers in the rapidly growing field of precision agriculture.



### MATRICE

The DJI Matrice trains students in advanced mapping and utility inspections, providing real-world experience that leads to specialized, high-demand drone careers.



### PENGUIN C

The Penguin C fixed-wing drone trains students in mission planning, launch, recovery, and payload use, preparing them for careers in mapping, surveillance, and environmental monitoring.



### EBEE

The eBee fixed-wing drone trains students in mission planning, flight operations, and data processing, preparing them for careers in agriculture, construction, and environmental monitoring.

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## FAA approved UAS-CTI school

NMC is approved by the Federal Aviation Administration as part of the UAS Collegiate Training Initiative program. This designation recognizes colleges and universities that prepare students for careers in unmanned aircraft systems. The program includes hands-on technical training with both multirotor and fixed-wing aircraft, a curriculum covering a wide range of UAS applications, and instruction from faculty with professional industry experience.

**Northwestern Michigan College** Learn more at [nmc.edu/uas](http://nmc.edu/uas)