

# Aerial Imagery & Cinematography



Digital Pedagogy  
& Scholarship  
at Smith College

The Aerial Imagery and Cinematography course (IDP 109) is a seven-week, one credit course designed to immerse students in drone avionics, aerial photography and videography, and photogrammetry and image processing. The goals of the course are to enable students to safely and purposefully operate drones (with supervision), and acquire and analyze imagery and data for use in their academic coursework and research.



## How are Smith College students applying skills learned in the course?

Students across disciplines are using drone technology to enhance their research and scholarship. One graduate of the course is integrating aerial cinematography into a major art installation that explores the natural world in relation to human bodies in dance. Other students are using geospatial products generated by aerial data to inform engineering design and natural resource management.

## The Aerial Imagery and Cinematography course can help you to:

1 Master Drone Avionic Skills

2 Conduct Safe and Legal Missions

3 Generate Cinematography and Geospatial Products

[smith.edu/edtech](https://smith.edu/edtech)

## Smith Student Impressions

*“I was thrilled to discover that drones can be used for mapping and landscape analysis. For our final project, our group mapped a portion of the area surrounding Paradise Pond, created a landscape model from our flight data, then merged that with a 3D bridge model to give us a detailed product from which to analyze potential bridge construction.”*

*“I am interested in working in conservation and natural resource management, and the mapping capabilities of drone technology can be extremely useful in assessing wildlife and vegetation.”*



*“The storyline for our cinematography project was the interaction of a drone as a sentient being with a human being through movement. My partner and I were hyper aware of the proximity of the drone to the dancer and for safety concerns, reacted to one another, second by second, during flight. I, as the dancer, and my partner as the drone operator, completed our mission in a loosely structured flight, allowing room for collaboration and human error.”*

## How to get started

To learn more about the Aerial Imagery and Cinematography course, visit:  
[www.smith.edu/edtech/idp109](http://www.smith.edu/edtech/idp109)



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