

Ufly Guidelines and Requirements

The Pegasus “Ufly” Program is designed to provide a clinical learning experience for individuals providing emergency and medical care services. The program will provide the opportunity for applicants to become knowledgeable regarding helicopter safety and operations. The program’s goal is to demonstrate quality patient care in the transport setting. The Ride-Along Program serves to enhance knowledge and foster the team concept for our partners in the Central Virginia Region.

We strongly encourage individuals working in emergency departments, those providing EMS services, and those who staff critical care units to sign up for our observer program. Observer participants are formally instructed on safe helicopter operation, enabling them to fly with Pegasus directly from a scene or hospital with little advanced notice.

UVA Pegasus base location: Smith-Worrell Hanger Charlottesville Airport, 3852 Dickerson Rd.,
Charlottesville, VA 22911

To apply: Complete the application in its entirety. The ride along application will ask for your preferred dates (Wednesday, Saturdays, Sunday only). You are responsible for transportation to and from the base.

Eligibility

- Candidates must (by job description) be involved in the transfer of critically ill or injured patients within the Pegasus service area. Typical job descriptions include licensed EMT, Paramedic, RN, NP, MD, RT, Firefighter, 911 operator, law enforcement officer, hospital helipad security personnel or those directly involved in setting up helicopter landing zones such as an LZ coordinator or LZ security officer.
- You must be at least 18 years old.
- You must weigh less than 220 pounds and have a waist size of less than 44 inches. If you weigh between 200-220 pounds, your participation will be subject to pilot discretion once total crew weight is considered. Regardless of weight, a ride along participant must be able to fit in the aircraft seatbelts.
- You must be fit, agile and able to exit the aircraft quickly without help.
- You may participate no more than once every 3 years, unless shift was cancelled per the observer coordinator. If so, another date will be scheduled for a future date.

Other Things to Remember

- Current working experience in emergency services or a hospital related setting is required and will be verified prior to schedule confirmation.
- The ride along shift typically starts at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.
- You must wear the provided UVA Pegasus Observer Vest during all phases of patient transport. A busy day with Pegasus may offer little to no time for meals drinks or snacks. You may also encounter turbulence, vibration, noise and extremes of hot and cold. If you have a medical condition that may make it hard for you to function in these conditions, please explain in the comments section of the application. UVA Pegasus reserves the right to request that ride along candidates provide a physician letter granting medical clearance to participate in the program.

OBSERVATION HOURS

The “Ufly” shift starts promptly at 7:30am and concludes at 5:00pm. There are rare occasions when a rider may need to be rescheduled or diverted the day of their ride along. Please call our base (434) 297-7082 at 7:00pm the evening prior to your ride along day. Request to speak directly to the pilot to confirm weather conditions permit an observer.

Applicants who are unable to keep their scheduled Ufly date are expected to notify the observer coordinator (Contact: Ufly Administrator: Ufly@virginia.edu). Those who are considered a “No-call, No show” will not be rescheduled. Please arrive well rested on the day of your ride-along. You should not plan on working the night before. You will be asked to reschedule if the crew feels you are too fatigued to safely fly.

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

Professional dress is required. EMS, fire, and law enforcement personnel can wear their uniforms to base. Otherwise wear black, blue or khaki pants and a solid-colored polo-type shirt. **Jeans and scrubs are not acceptable attire.** Please dress appropriately for the weather. It is not uncommon to spend an extended period of time out in the elements.

Boots are the best footwear for a ride along. Shoes with a non-slip tread and adequate protection are also allowed. Tennis shoes, sneakers, sandals, clogs or open-toe/open-back shoes are not allowed. **All riders must wear the provided UVA Pegasus Ufly Vest during all phases of patient transport.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Helicopter ride along applicants must view the online PowerPoint before arriving at the base.
 - A busy day with Pegasus may offer little to no time for meals, drinks or snacks. You may also encounter turbulence, vibration, noise and extremes of hot and cold. If you have a medical condition that may make it hard for you to function in these conditions, please communicate these concerns to the ride along coordinator during the scheduling process.
- UVA Pegasus reserves the right to request that Ufly candidates provide a physician letter granting medical clearance to participate in the program.
- Eat breakfast, flying on an empty stomach increases your chance of airsickness.
 - Bring something to eat and drink throughout the day. The base has a full kitchen and refrigerator that you are welcome to use.
 - Bring a small amount of money. In cases of back-to-back flights you may wish to purchase food and/or drink items at an off site location or vending machine.
 - Due to the unpredictable frequency of calls, we are unable to guarantee that you will return to the base by any certain time. Please plan your evening accordingly.
 - Bring something to do during idle time while waiting on flights (i.e. research, book to read, tablet/computer, etc.).
 - If a Ufly candidate does not get an opportunity to fly while at the base, the Individual will be allowed one (1) rescheduling opportunity. Being asked to reschedule at Pegasus' request will not be counted as an additional trip.
 - There is a chance (due to weight and balance) you will need to be left behind either on scene or at an outlying facility. Pegasus will make arrangements with an EMS agency or local law enforcement to pick you up and return you safely to the destination of the helicopter. If we are aware of a weight restriction before leaving the base, you will be given the opportunity to reschedule your ride along day or wait somewhere in the local community. For security reasons, riders are not allowed to stay in the hanger/quarters when the Pegasus medical crewmembers are not present.
 - **Cell phones must be in airplane mode at all times when the aircraft is running.** You are free to take pictures while in the air. However due to HIPPA restrictions, photography is prohibited once on scene and when a patient is in the aircraft.
 - You must have a driver's license or official ID with you at all times.

DIRECTIONS

UVA Pegasus Flight Operations is located at 3852 Dickerson Rd., Suite 200, Charlottesville, VA 22911.

From I64 E/W-Take HWY 29 North to airport rd. follow Airport Rd to the roundabout and keep right onto Dickerson Rd, turn into the first driveway on the left (Smith-Worrell Hanger) and park in the approved parking as mentioned in the Ufly Orientation Slideshow.

From Rt. 33/HWY 66-Take HWY 29 South to airport rd. follow Airport Rd to the roundabout and keep right onto Dickerson Rd, turn into the first driveway on the left (Smith-Worrell Hanger) and park in the approved parking as mentioned in the Ufly Orientation PowerPoint.

Click on the map below for Google Maps turn-by-turn directions

