The Interdisciplinary Studies - Teacher Preparation Program (IDS-TP) in ODU's College of Arts and Letters provides teacher candidates with a multidisciplinary curriculum reflecting academic content areas and professional education coursework required by the Commonwealth of Virginia's teacher licensure regulations. The program's mission is to prepare future educators as professionals through the provision of general education courses, early field experiences, content specialty courses, and the development of discipline-specific skills and attitudes which reflect a commitment to teaching and learning as well as lifelong professional growth and development. The program aims to promote the success of the university's richly diverse community and the development of students as professional educators, leaders, and critically engaged citizens. Through these efforts, students become innovative and creative educators who make a difference for diverse learners, from birth through adulthood, in schools and communities, both local and global. The IDS-TP program engages students in the community both at the undergraduate and graduate level due to its emphasis on early field experiences. In the Primary/Elementary concentration, teacher candidates will participate in a 30 hour observation and two practicum experiences totaling 110 hours as undergraduates and a 150 hour practicum experience as graduate students prior to student teaching.

The IDS-TP Primary/Elementary Concentration is a 4+1 BS/MS program. The "4" refers to the Bachelor of Science Degree. Teacher candidates first will complete a minimum of 120 undergraduate credit hours and receive a Bachelor's Degree from the College of Arts and Letters. Students will not be able to teach at the conclusion of the undergraduate portion of the program since it does NOT include licensure or student teaching or the additional assessments required for licensure at the BS level. The "1" refers to the graduate degree or post baccalaureate portion of the program. Upon award of their bachelor's degree, teacher candidates will be able to apply for admission to the 5th-year Master's program offered by the Darden College of Education. This 31 graduate credit hour program includes student teaching and can be completed in a little as 3 full-time semesters. Students apply for licensure to teach PK-6 at the conclusion of the 5th year portion of the curriculum. If students do not wish to pursue a Master's degree along with Licensure, they may elect to complete licensure requirements in the Post Baccalaureate Endorsement program offered by the Darden College of Education. This non-degree PBE program includes student teaching and can be completed in as little as 2 semesters. NOTE: Students who complete the post-baccalaureate endorsement program are not eligible to enter the 5th-year accelerated Master's program. Students may be eligible to enter other Master's degree programs provided they meet admission requirements. PRAXIS Core, a background clearance check, and admission to the undergraduate teacher education program are required for continuance and graduation from the program at the undergraduate level. Passing scores on the PRAXIS II Elementary Content Knowledge Assessment, Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment, Reading for Virginia Educators Assessment, a background clearance check (if expired), first aid/CPR training, and child abuse training are required at the graduate level prior to student teaching.