

School of Teacher Education and Leadership Elementary Education (grades PreK-6)



Radford University has been preparing teachers since its establishment in 1910. In addition to preparing students to teach in a regular classroom, the program provides the foundation for continuing in such careers as school counseling, special education, curriculum development, principalship and supervision. Since the program requires a major in interdisciplinary studies, students are also prepared for other careers requiring a broad liberal arts background, especially those in which they must demonstrate strong interpersonal skills. The department also offers a licensure program at the graduate level for those who have already earned a baccalaureate in an academic discipline.

The program was planned by faculty and public school teachers to provide both the depth and breadth in many subject areas which are required of elementary teachers. It also provides the student with several options for concentrations in two areas: science, social science, foreign language, special education, English, and mathematics -statistics.

Unique features of Radford's program include its year-long field-based emphasis and the use of small cohorts of fifteen to twenty students focused upon professional development. The core of the program consists of two intense semesters of working in classrooms integrated with campus courses and professional development seminars. University and school faculty work closely to integrate university courses with work in the classroom. The program was awarded the Innovative Teacher Preparation Program award from the Southern Regional Association of Teacher Educators.

Students must meet basic requirements for applying to the Teacher Education Programs that will include tests required for licensure (PRAXIS I and VCLA) which evaluates basic competencies in reading, writing, and mathematics; achieving academic excellence (minimum GPA of 2.75); pedagogical content knowledge (as measured by the VRA and PRAXIS II tests); and exhibiting personal and professional characteristics contributing to success in teaching. Beginning in Fall 2009 any student entering the program must have a grade of "C" or better in all in-major courses.

You will complete the core curriculum requirements, as do all RU students, typically during the first two years. The first course in the program is essentially taken during the junior year, followed by the two semesters of field-based experiences integrated with courses and seminars in curriculum and instruction, classroom management, assessment of learning, using media, reading, science, mathematics, and language arts and children's literature. Prior to the junior year, students are strongly encouraged to participate in workshops offered by the Center for Academic Advising and Student Support and in the experiential opportunities (working in GED, teaching in after-school programs, tutoring, etc.) available through the Student Education Association.

For more information contact:
Dr. Holly Robbins, hrobbins@radford.edu
School of Teacher Education and Leadership
Radford University, P.O. Box 6959
Radford, VA 24142
(540) 831-5302

RU Admissions Office:
<http://admissions.asp.radford.edu/default.aspx>

