**First-Year Writing Requirement**

As an essential tool for academic study, personal expression, and civic life, writing deserves concerted attention in a liberal education. A one-semester writing seminar, a general degree requirement of the College, must be taken by all first-year students. Writing seminars are courses that integrate writing instruction with intellectual inquiry into particular disciplinary or topical foci. They devote attention to strategies for performing critical analysis, constructing sound arguments, and crafting effective prose. WS-T (topically organized) and WS-D (academic discipline based) seminars are offered in both semesters. WS-I sections, taught in the fall semester, do not alone fulfill the writing requirement but serve as preparation for WS-T or WS-D courses in the spring semester. Students are advised to take other courses as well in which writing receives substantial attention.