NOTE TO STUDENTS AND ADVISORS:

All students must complete a January experience that involves one of the following: off-campus experience, directed readings or research, or student-designed study. This experience (“J-term II”) may be taken in any of the years following the first-year seminar (185), and it may be satisfied by either a 4-credit or 2-credit course. It is important to understand that it is not necessary to undertake this requirement in the sophomore year; in fact, for many students it will make more sense to do so in their junior or senior year.

Please note: If a current senior has not already fulfilled this requirement, she or he must do so this January (2016) in order to graduate this spring.

For students who wish to fulfill the J-term II requirement this year, there are numerous ways to do so:

Off-campus engagement:
- Study abroad course
- Domestic study away course
- Internship (380 or 381)
- Field or clinical experience course
- Designated service-learning or experiential-based course (listed in registration materials as fulfilling “J2”)

Directed readings or research:
- Directed study (285): An opportunity to pursue individualized or experiential learning with a faculty member in the January term, at the sophomore level, either within or outside the major.
- Directed readings (375): An opportunity to pursue a specialized area of a particular discipline under the direction of a faculty member. Prerequisites and requirements vary by department.
- Directed research (389): Involvement in a research project under the supervision of a faculty member; students are typically invited by a faculty member to participate in this type of research.

Student-designed study:
- Independent study (395): Student-designed study, either individual or group, used by the student who wishes to design a course of independent study not otherwise available in the curriculum. This opportunity has a prerequisite of 12 credit hours in the department of study.

Students who wish to undertake directed or independent study or research will need to complete the “Application for Special Registration” which can be found on the registrar’s webpage.
TIPS FOR REGISTRATION:

Students should talk with their advisors about whether or not January of 2016 is the most optimal time to complete the J-term II requirement. Since the requirement can be fulfilled in any of the three years following their first-year seminar, students should think carefully about what option for J-term II makes the most sense for them, and when it is most appropriate to complete it. Remember that this was designed to provide opportunities for students that a regular semester course could not accommodate. Students should be energized by the process of considering their options, and excited about the choice they make for either off-campus engagement or individualized study. Having a good conversation with an advisor may not result in a student’s fulfilling this requirement in January 2016, but it will lay the groundwork for choosing wisely in subsequent years.

Advisors can direct students to particular faculty who can help them design the project. In some departments, there are special projects or topics available for students. All departments may offer internships, but in some departments there is a designated faculty member who will work with all their majors on internship planning. In addition, students can consult with members of the Career Development Center for help in learning about internship possibilities.

To register for an on-campus Directed Study, Directed Reading, Directed Research, or Independent Study opportunity: After consulting with a faculty supervisor, students should complete the “specialized registration” form found on the Registrar’s website and submit it to the Registrar’s Office with the required signatures by the time of their registration. The form must be received by the Registrar before the student will be enrolled in the course.

Internship forms are available through the Career Center.