Since 1961, the Graduate Program in Cellular and Molecular Biology (CMB) has been pioneering graduate education in the fields of cell biology and molecular biology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. CMB is a research-oriented, interdisciplinary program leading to the Ph.D. degree. UW–Madison has one of the largest and most prestigious biology facilities in the world, well-noted for its cooperation and collaboration across department boundaries. CMB is an important part of that interdepartmental strength, providing students with the opportunity to work with more than 200 faculty members in 40 departments.

Research and coursework experience allow CMB students to obtain a solid foundation in cell biology and molecular biology that is tailored to their professional objectives. Research focus groups are composed of students and faculty studying a common research area. The focus groups are: cancer biology, cell adhesion and cytoskeleton, cellular and molecular metabolism, developmental biology and regenerative medicine, immunology, membrane biology and protein trafficking, molecular and genome biology of microbes, physiology, plant biology, RNA biology, systems biology, transcriptional mechanisms, and virology.