The graduate program in Cellular and Molecular Biology (CMB) has been a pioneer in graduate education fields of cell biology and molecular biology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison since 1961. The program is research-oriented and interdisciplinary leading to the PhD 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. Cellular and Molecular Biology (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 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.