

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR

Molecular and Radiological Biosciences Building, Room 111
(970) 491-5602

[bmb.colostate.edu/undergraduate-students/](https://www.bmb.colostate.edu/undergraduate-students/) (<https://www.bmb.colostate.edu/undergraduate-students/>)

Coordinated by a Faculty Advisory Board

Erwin Chargaff referred to molecular biology as “the practice of biochemistry without a license” due to the fact that most early molecular biologists were trained as chemists or physicists. This also serves to emphasize that molecular biology is an interdisciplinary field, primarily the study of macromolecular structure and of the replication and expression of the information in our hereditary material (DNA). Jacques Monod defined molecular biology as “the recognition that the essential properties of living beings could be interpreted in terms of the structures of their macromolecules.”

Molecular biology is becoming increasingly recognized as a significant area of study, particularly for students interested in the rapidly emerging field of biotechnology. The course requirements for this program complement extant life science degree programs on campus. The Molecular Biology Interdisciplinary Minor—noted on the transcript—will provide recognition that the student has completed a body of course work that provides both breadth and depth in this area. This program provides students with a strong, well-balanced background in the biological, physical, and mathematical sciences. It is ideally suited for undergraduates who wish to pursue advanced degrees in biochemistry, microbiology, molecular biology, or related life sciences; for pre-professional students in health-related fields; and for students interested in employment in the biotechnology industry. The program includes study of macromolecular structure and function; cellular biochemistry; metabolism; gene expression, DNA structure, replication, and repair; cell organization, communication, growth, aging, and death. Courses in physics, organic chemistry, statistical measurements, and research methods are required. Independent study, internships, or advanced research-oriented laboratory classes are taken during the junior and senior years to provide opportunities for experiential learning and working closely with an interdisciplinary group of faculty.

Students interested in participating in this program should contact the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (<http://www.bmb.colostate.edu/>) (in the Molecular and Radiological Biosciences Building, Room 111, (970) 491-5602).