Biology at Belmont is characterized by small class sizes, faculty who love teaching, strong undergraduate research programs, faculty-taught labs and individual advising. Students engage in hands-on learning in modern, fully-equipped teaching and research laboratories. Covering all the major areas in biology, from proteins to ecosystems, the faculty work together to create a learning environment that prepares students for a wide range of options after graduation.
Faculty in biology engage students in the practice of "doing biology." Biology is observed, counted, photographed, manipulated, weighed, timed and poured. We participate in the scientific method as we measure rates of photosynthesis, assay enzymes, run DNA gels, count conenose bugs, time heartbeats, sample salamander populations, grow cancer cell lines and train zebrafish. We believe that no subject, and certainly not biology, can be truly understood and appreciated until it is experienced.

Courses in biology are characterized not only by lectures and discussions but also by model building, role-playing, open-ended laboratory experimentation and field investigations. Involvement in undergraduate research and conference presentations provide real-world experiences. Students have access to a wide range of modern scientific equipment, research laboratories, tissue culture lab, green roof, zebrafish lab and microscopy suite. Students engage in community service and internships at local health care facilities, schools and natural areas. Participation in biology student organizations, prepping labs as a student worker and serving as a peer tutor are other forms of active learning available to students.

The biology major prepares students for graduate and professional schools as well as a wide range of careers. Our alumni are practicing physicians, dentists, pharmacists, naturalists, research technicians, high school teachers and biology professors, to name a few of the professions they have chosen.