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educate and employ
The biophysics community on Northwestern University’s Chicago and Evanston campuses has grown substantially in the past two decades with the recruitment of more than 20 dynamic faculty members. Graduate students have access to state-of-the-art instrumentation and laboratories where faculty from eight departments and programs have established an ambitious yet highly collegial research environment.

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Northwestern’s research programs in biophysics explore diverse topics in structural biology, drug design, mechanistic biology, computational biology and informatics, and chemical biology. A variety of fundamental biological questions are being studied in the following areas:

- gene regulation
- macromolecular machines
- metal trafficking
- networks
- nucleic acid structure and function
- protein and RNA binding and processing
- protein structure and function
- signaling

The didactic component of the Molecular Biophysics Training Program includes courses on three topics:

- molecular biophysics, macromolecular structure, macromolecular function
- contemporary biophysical methods
- macromolecular crystallography and nuclear magnetic resonance
- quantitative biology

Beyond courses, the training program sponsors these activities:

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ALL THINGS IN NATURE HAVE A SHAPE, THAT IS TO SAY, A FORM, AN OUTWARD SIMILARITY, THAT TELLS US WHAT THEY ARE, THAT DISTINGUISHES THEM FROM OURSELVES AND FROM EACH OTHER, IT IS THE PERVERSIVE LAW OF ALL THINGS ORGANIC AND INORGANIC . . . THAT FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION.

— Louis Sullivan
Architect and Leader of the Chicago School