The Biology Department participated in the development of several programs (majors) including Biology, Biology of Global Health, Environmental Science, Neuroscience and Biochemistry. We intentionally developed these majors so that they all start with a common set of courses (BIOL 207 & 208 AND CHEM 111 &112). Completion of those courses allows students to enter any one of the above majors in their second year without missing a beat. In other words, you should use your first year to learn about different majors and to discover your academic strengths; do not worry about selecting a major right away. Specific questions can be directed to Dr. Dalma Martinovic at mart6831@stthomas.edu.

Our faculty are practicing scientists whose research supports scientific progress and informs environmental and public health policies. All students are encouraged to conduct research in collaboration with faculty. Research topics are diverse and include molecular biology, animal behavior, toxicology, pharmacology, environmental science, microbiology, ecology, sustainable agriculture, and evolution. Most of the research opportunities are funded by a combination of internal and external funds allowing students to earn salary while learning state of the art specialized science methodologies, as well as transferrable skills (being a successful team member, problem solving, communication skills). To engage you can apply to advertised research assistant jobs, or you can apply for Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Fellowships found on the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program website.

Many students work as scientists in industry (biomedical, forensics, environmental consulting), and some pursue science careers in state and federal agencies (e.g., US EPA, MN Dept of Health). Others use their Biology education to pursue careers in health care business administration. Some pursue further education in health care including medical school, dental school, public health, nursing and physician assistant professions. Some students pursue graduate degrees (PhD, MS) in the biological sciences.

We are very excited about the rise in integrative thinking about human health (e.g., connectivity of human health and environmental and societal conditions). The COVID-19 pandemic highlights why such ways of thinking are essential for solving complex societal problems. This approach is taken in many of the Biology courses we deliver, and Biology students have initiated a variety of changemaking efforts that promote better health through improving environmental and societal conditions. Here is a great example of such effort: Changemaker , in collaboration with Biology Department's Dr. Adam Kay have designed an Experiential Learning Course that has evolved into a non-profit that she leads. The organization is focused on improvement of maternal care in Gambia. This initiative was shared in the Star Tribune and the St. Thomas Newsroom.