The interdisciplinary academic Center for Ethics promotes rigorous inquiry into, probing reflection on, and responsible engagement with the ethical dimensions of life from the personal to the global. Ethics has to do with issues of action, character, and governing values, with questions about right and wrong, good and evil, worthiness and unworthiness, justice and injustice, with matters of individual and collective responsibility, respect and discrimination, war and peace, and with the norms, habits, and systems that make the persons we are, the lives we live, and the societies in which we live together, better or worse. Ultimately, ethics concerns how we ought to live, individually and collectively. Ethical concepts, issues, questions, norms, and systems can be studied philosophically, psychologically, sociologically, anthropologically, historically, politically; ethical inquiry engages the natural and applied sciences and engineering and addresses concerns in economics and business; ethical questions are explored in religion and literature and through artistic expression.

The Center's organizing perspective is that there is no aspect of human beings, no space in human lives, that does not have ethical dimensions—our intrapersonal lives, our interpersonal relations, as well as the educational, professional, familial, social, cultural, religious, artistic, political, economic, environmental, scientific, and global dimensions of our lives together. The ethics domain thus encompasses all aspects of Lehigh University.

Research and Educational Activities
The Center for Ethics, which serves the entire Lehigh community, has three principal aims:

- Enhance student engagement with ethical issues and ethical decision-making
- Foster research in ethics and ethical issues
- Promote public ethics education

The Center functions in two ways. First, it provides resources to support, coordinate, and expand existing ethics-related educational and research activities and programs at Lehigh, thus highlighting and promoting the wide-range of opportunities to engage with ethical issues across the university and in the wider community.

Second, the Center focuses attention on vital but difficult questions and creates new opportunities for engagement with ethical issues in the following ways:

- Bringing to campus ethics leaders from academia, business, civic organizations, government, through the Peter S. Hagerman ’61 Lecture in Ethics series;
- Supporting and enhancing curricular, co-curricular, and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students in every discipline to develop and apply intellectual tools that will enable them to identify, understand, and deliberate well about ethical issues;