The multidisciplinary Social Science Research Center assists university faculty, community groups, government agencies, and businesses with conducting empirical research. The center is unique in its support for the collection and rigorous analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data. Recent past projects range from federally-funded and collaborative scholarly studies to small on-campus studies by undergraduates. Our involvement in projects varies from one-time consulting on specific aspects of a research program to contracts for fully conducting a project from start to finish.

The goals of the SSRC are to expand and support scholarly research in the social sciences by Lehigh faculty; enrich undergraduate and graduate education by providing research training and opportunities for students and course projects; and partner with community-based organizations for program evaluations and needs assessments. Support for the SSRC comes from the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and from the university’s Vice-Provost for Research.

Faculty and students affiliated with the SSRC are drawn from across the university and trained in a variety of methodological techniques, including telephone and face-to-face surveys, in-depth and life history interviewing, focus groups, document analysis, analysis of audio and video recordings, geographic information systems (GIS) analysis, and advanced statistical analysis.

SSRC facilities include 6 computer lab work-stations, computer-assisted telephone survey software, computer-assisted qualitative analysis software, GIS and statistics software, professional transcription equipment, and meeting space for collaborative research teams.