THE ETHICS INITIATIVE



"Notre Dame is uniquely positioned to integrate the Catholic intellectual tradition with the major research questions of our time."

Meghan Sullivan, the Wilsey Family College Professor of Philosophy and Ethics Initiative Director

We are living through a century of unprecedented technological, economic, and social change. Each new development poses significant ethical questions that we must study and respond to decisively.

The Ethics Initiative, rooted in the Institute for Ethics and the Common Good, is establishing Notre Dame as a premier global destination for the study of ethics, offering superb training for future generations of ethicists and moral leaders, a platform for engagement of the Catholic moral tradition with other modes of inquiry, and an opportunity to forge insights into some of the most significant ethical issues of our time.

Research

Education & Formation

Public Engagement

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME | ETHICS INITIATIVE

Our work

The Notre Dame Ethics Initiative directs its work toward three areas:

Research: The Initiative facilitates University-wide collaboration on interdisciplinary research in ethical theory and applied ethics and assists with recruitment and support of leading ethics scholars. Six Notre Dame faculty members serve as Ethics Initiative Program Chairs, receiving funding to advance ethics research in their given fields. The Initiative is also home to the Notre Dame–IBM Technology Ethics Lab, focused on driving ethical, human-centered technology design and use.

Education & Formation: The Initiative facilitates undergraduate courses on ethics and human flourishing and convenes University stakeholders to facilitate training, formation, and exposure to ethics for graduate students. The Initiative also houses highly competitive fellowship programs for faculty, faith and nonprofit leaders, postdocs, graduate students, and undergraduates.

Public Engagement: In addition to hosting events on campus and in the community, the Ethics Initiative convenes, trains, and supports scholars and leaders to advance public understanding of ethically complex issues. The Initiative is managing two large, public-facing grants: a $50.8 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. supporting DELTA, which advances human formation in the age of AI through network building and practical resources, and a $10 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation on the importance of love in ethical thought and practice, through the Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., Center for Virtue Ethics.

Our approach

The Ethics Initiative convenes a multidisciplinary community of scholars, students, and leaders to advance moral understanding and develop compelling responses to the most pressing ethical questions of our era. Animated by a distinctive commitment to integrating Catholic and faith-based perspectives, the Initiative promotes broad ethical inquiry in service to human dignity, interdependent flourishing, and the common good. The Initiative is guided by the conviction that Notre Dame must become a recognized leader generating ethical scholarship that is influential in the field, inspiring to the public, and that renews and expands the Catholic social tradition.

Our leadership



Meghan Sullivan
Director, Ethics Initiative; Founding Director, Institute for Ethics and the Common Good; Wilsey Family College Professor of Philosophy



Angie Appleby Purcell
Managing Director, Ethics Initiative and Institute for Ethics and the Common Good

Learn more at go.nd.edu/ethics