Academic Structure

Academic Structure is the module in Campus Solutions that contains the definition of the institution and its structure. This information is required for all processing and is presented as a hierarchy of elements organized into a flow chart. Academic Structure defines Academic Careers, Academic Programs, Academic Plans and Academic Sub-Plans.

Academic Career
◊ The general level of study to which a student has been admitted (e.g., Undergraduate, Graduate, Ag. Tech, Human Medicine, Non-Degree, Law)
◊ Students can enroll in more than one Academic Career, and coursework will display on the transcript based on the Career in which it was taken (e.g., an undergraduate student is given permission to take a graduate-level course to satisfy degree requirements)

Academic Program
◊ Broad course of study to which the student applies and is admitted (e.g., Master’s in Business, Bachelor’s in Engineering)
◊ Student graduates from their Academic Program
◊ Controls student's level/load (i.e., freshman/full-time), calendar and grading schemes

Academic Plan
◊ Course of study in a specific academic field
◊ Defines academic objectives like majors, minors, certificates, etc.
◊ A student can earn one degree per Academic Plan
◊ Defined by Academic Program or Academic Career

Academic Sub-Plan
◊ An area of specialization within a specific Academic Plan
◊ Typically a concentration or option within a Plan
◊ Also used to specify graduate thesis options

Michigan State University’s Academic Structure as defined by Campus Solutions
Current MSU SIS Term | Campus Solutions Term

- Student Level
- Student Level + College
- Major/Minor/Program
- Concentration/Plan A or B

Student Level → Career
Career → Program
Program → Plan
Plan → Sub-Plan

Undergraduate Career Program Plan Examples

◊ Plans that are Majors are attached to the Program as they can only exist if a student is in that Program (e.g., Advertising)
◊ Most Plans that are Minors are attached directly to the Career, so it can be used with multiple Programs (e.g., Entrepreneurship and Innovation)
◊ A Sub-Plan is optional, and not every student will have one

Graduate Career Program Plan Examples

◊ Sub-Plans under a Plan can have A/B options (e.g., Journalism Thesis [A] and Journalism Non-Thesis [B])
◊ Some Plans do not have any Sub-Plans defined

Even though these Plans are directly correlated to a Program, the Plans have a clarifying acronym following them in the name, as depicted here