The Academic Structure and its elements are building blocks for an academic institution. Below is a representation the academic structure.

An **institution** is an entity, such as a university or college that runs independently from other like entities and has its own set of rules and business processes. It is at the institution level where a large number of default settings are held, such as the main address, the default grading scheme and basis, residency requirements, advisor report type, etc.
**Campus** is used to differentiate multi-campus university systems within an academic institution.

In order to track a student's academic progress and record, the university will establish the careers, programs, plans and sub-plans that define the degrees that students can earn.

Academic Career is the general level of study to which a student has been admitted.

**Academic Program** is the broad course of study to which the student applies, is admitted and from which the student graduates.

**Academic Plan** is a course of study in a specific academic field. They make up the majors, minors, and certificates offered by the university.

Students must be admitted to an Academic Program and Academic Plan. Students can pursue multiple plans under one program or multiple plans under multiple programs but can only earn one degree per plan.

Academic plans that are majors are mapped to an academic program while plans that are minors may be mapped to either program or academic career.

**Academic Sub-Plan** is a concentration or area of interest within an Academic Plan, providing the student the ability to further specialize within an academic plan.

Sub-plans cannot stand on their own; the student must be admitted to a career, program and plan. Sub-plans are not required for a student to enroll; however, some academic plans do require the completion of a sub-plan(s) in order to graduate.

**Setting user defaults**

When accessing pages within TitanWeb/PeopleSoft, you will often be required to enter values for data in the academic structure. Campus Solutions allows you to automatically
load default values into data pages for a particular user ID. The user default settings that you establish in the **User Defaults** component can be overridden on any page in the system. User defaults, which are optional, can save time and minimize data entry errors.

**Breadcrumbs:** Set Up SACR>User Defaults

Under User Defaults 1, select the desired defaults and click save when done.

Effective dates

Effective dates are used to track data changes occurring on a specific calendar date and enable the maintenance of an accurate history of changes to data. Effective dating facilitates the storing of historical data, seeing changes in data over time and entering future data. Data elements that are effective dated include a student’s name and address, course information and Academic Program/Plan.

The types of actions that you can perform on rows of data depend on the data row type and security. When you retrieve, modify, or insert rows in a table, the Update/Display, Include History, and Correct History actions apply specific rules based on the effective date.
The options to select Include History or Correct History action mode are at the bottom of the relevant search pages as well as the toolbar in the right corner of any relevant page.

Effective terms

There are instances in PeopleSoft where pages/records are keyed by effective term rather than effective date. Effective term is used for term-based academic data where a single value is in effect for an entire academic term, or where changes are affected on a term-by-term basis. Some examples of term-dated data include residency, academic load and level, term activation, class schedules, enrollments, and academic standing.

Student Program Plan Stack

The Student Program Plan Stack is used to maintain actions to a student’s Academic Program, Academic Plan and Academic Sub-Plan. Any change to a student’s program plan stack requires the use of effective dating to track the changes to a student’s record.
Actions that may be used on a student’s program plan stack include:

- Matriculating or activating a student into their Career/Program/Plan
- Changes to a student's Program, Plan or Sub-Plan (e.g., adding/changing majors, minors, concentrations, etc.)
- Changes to a student's status at the university (e.g., withdrawals, suspensions and dismissals)
- All actions to student’s program plan stack will be handled by the Admissions and Registrar’s Office. The Graduate studies office will have access to make updates to a graduate student’s program plan stack as well.