

Recommended Courses Block

This documentation provides comprehensive information about the Recommended Courses Block plugin for Moodle.

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Overview

The **Recommended Courses Block** provides students with **personalized course recommendations** directly within their Moodle dashboard.

By leveraging the **Ranking Activities AI** plugin and the **DataCurso AI Provider**, this block displays AI-generated suggestions based on each student's learning preferences, satisfaction, and activity ratings.

With this block, learners can easily discover new courses that match their interests, while teachers and administrators benefit from increased visibility and engagement across the platform.

What is Recommended Courses Block?

The Recommended Courses Block is a Moodle block plugin that integrates seamlessly with the existing DataCurso ecosystem. It analyzes student behavior and feedback from the Ranking Activities AI plugin to generate intelligent course recommendations.

Each recommendation includes:

- Course name and direct link
- Satisfaction and preference percentages
- Dynamic course images (custom or automatically generated)

Students can choose between two display modes:

- **Cards View:** Visual layout with course thumbnails
- **List View:** Compact layout with quick course information

A "Powered by DataCurso" label appears at the bottom of the block, acknowledging the AI technology behind the recommendations.

Benefits

1. **Personalized Learning Experience:** Students receive course suggestions tailored to their interests and learning patterns
2. **Increased Course Enrollment:** Students are more likely to enroll in courses that match their preferences
3. **Modern Interface:** The block features a responsive, visually appealing design that integrates seamlessly with Moodle's dashboard
4. **Data-Driven Recommendations:** AI analyzes actual student feedback and ratings to provide relevant suggestions
5. **Easy Navigation:** Pagination and sorting options make it simple to browse through multiple recommendations

Integration with DataCurso Ecosystem

This block works in conjunction with:

- **Ranking Activities AI Plugin:** Collects student ratings and feedback on course activities
- **DataCurso AI Provider:** Processes the collected data to generate intelligent recommendations

The combination of these plugins creates a powerful recommendation engine that helps students discover relevant courses based on real user experiences.

Download

The Recommended Courses Block can be downloaded from the official Moodle Plugins directory:

[Download Recommended Courses Block](#)

Prerequisites

Before installing the Recommended Courses Block, ensure your Moodle environment meets the following requirements:

System Requirements

1. **Moodle 4.5 or higher**

Required Plugins

The Recommended Courses Block depends on two other DataCurso plugins:

1. Ranking Activities AI Plugin

This plugin collects student ratings and feedback on course activities. It is essential for generating the data that the AI uses to make recommendations.

- Download: https://moodle.org/plugins/local_datacurso_ratings/versions

2. DataCurso AI Provider

This is the AI provider that processes student data and generates intelligent course recommendations. It must be installed and configured with a valid license key.

- Download: https://moodle.org/plugins/aiprovider_datacurso/versions
- License configuration: [../moodle-aiprovider_datacurso/getting-license-keys](https://moodle.org/plugins/aiprovider_datacurso/getting-license-keys)

Important Note

This block will not function unless both the **Ranking Activities AI** (`local_datacurso_ratings`) and the **DataCurso AI Provider**

| `(aiprovider_datacurso)` plugins are properly installed and configured.

Make sure to complete the installation and configuration of these prerequisites before proceeding with the Recommended Courses Block installation.



Installation

The Recommended Courses Block can be installed using either the web interface or manually via the filesystem.

Installing via Uploaded ZIP File

1. Log in to your Moodle site as an administrator
2. Navigate to `Site administration > Plugins > Install plugins`
3. Upload the ZIP file containing the plugin code
4. Review the plugin validation report
5. Complete Installing Man the installation

##ually

You can also install this plugin manually by copying its contents into:

```
{your/moodle/dirroot}/blocks/datacurso_recomendate
```

Then log in to your Moodle site as an administrator and go to `Site administration > Notifications` to complete the installation.

Alternatively, from the command line:

```
php admin/cli/upgrade.php
```

Verification

After installation, verify that:

- The block appears in the list of installed plugins
- You can access the block settings in Site administration

Key Features

The Recommended Courses Block offers a comprehensive set of features designed to enhance student engagement and course discovery.

AI-Powered Course Recommendations

The block displays personalized course suggestions for each student based on:

- Activity ratings from the Ranking Activities AI plugin
- Engagement patterns and learning preferences
- Satisfaction percentages derived from student feedback

Dynamic Display Modes

Choose between two view modes to browse recommended courses:

- **Cards View:** Visual layout with attractive course thumbnails
- **List View:** Compact layout with quick course information

Course Images

The block automatically retrieves or generates attractive thumbnails for every course, ensuring a consistent and professional appearance.

Pagination and Sorting

Students can smoothly navigate between multiple recommended courses with:

- Easy-to-use pagination controls
- Sorting options to organize recommendations

Visual and Responsive Design

The block is designed with:

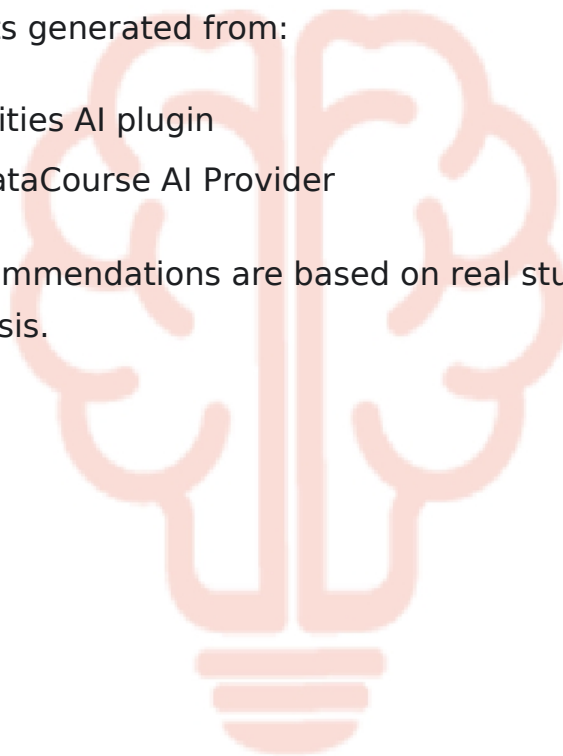
- Modern, adaptive layout that fits perfectly with Moodle's dashboard
- Responsive design that works on all devices
- Clean visual presentation of course information

Powered by DataCourse AI

The block uses insights generated from:

- The Ranking Activities AI plugin
- Analysis by the DataCourse AI Provider

This ensures that recommendations are based on real student data and sophisticated AI analysis.



How It Works

The Recommended Courses Block operates by retrieving and displaying AI-generated course recommendations based on student activity data.

Data Flow

1. **Data Collection:** The **Ranking Activities AI** plugin collects ratings and feedback from students on various course activities.
2. **AI Processing:** The DataCourse AI Provider processes this data to identify patterns in student preferences and satisfaction.
3. **Recommendation Generation:** The AI generates personalized course recommendations for each student based on their learning profile.
4. **Display:** The block retrieves these recommendations and displays them in the student's dashboard.

Information Displayed

Each course recommendation includes:

- **Course Name:** The title of the recommended course with a direct link
- **Satisfaction Percentage:** How satisfied students are with the course
- **Preference Percentage:** How well the course matches the student's interests
- **Course Image:** An attractive thumbnail (custom or automatically generated)

User Interaction

Students can:

- Click on any recommended course to navigate directly to it
- Switch between **Cards View** and **List View** using the view toggle
- Navigate through multiple pages of recommendations using pagination

Branding

A "Powered by DataCurso" label appears at the bottom of the block, acknowledging the AI technology that powers the recommendations.



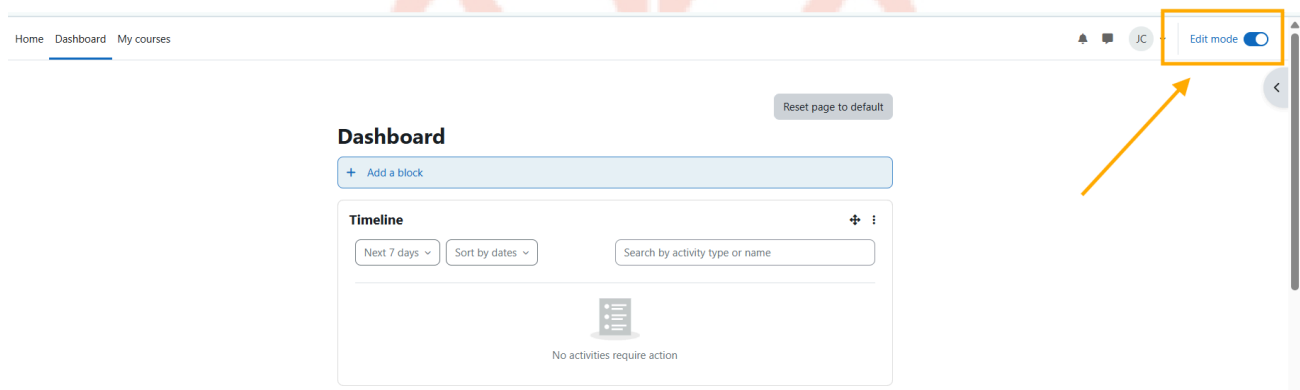
User Guide

Once installed, the Recommended Courses Block needs to be added to your Moodle dashboard and configured properly.

Adding the Block to Dashboard

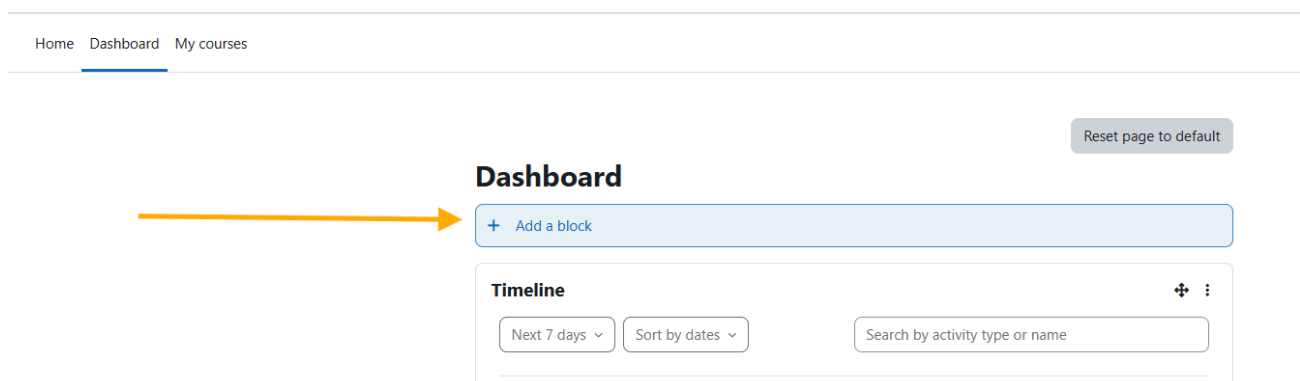
Step 1: Activate Edit Mode

Enable edit mode on your Moodle dashboard to access options for adding blocks.



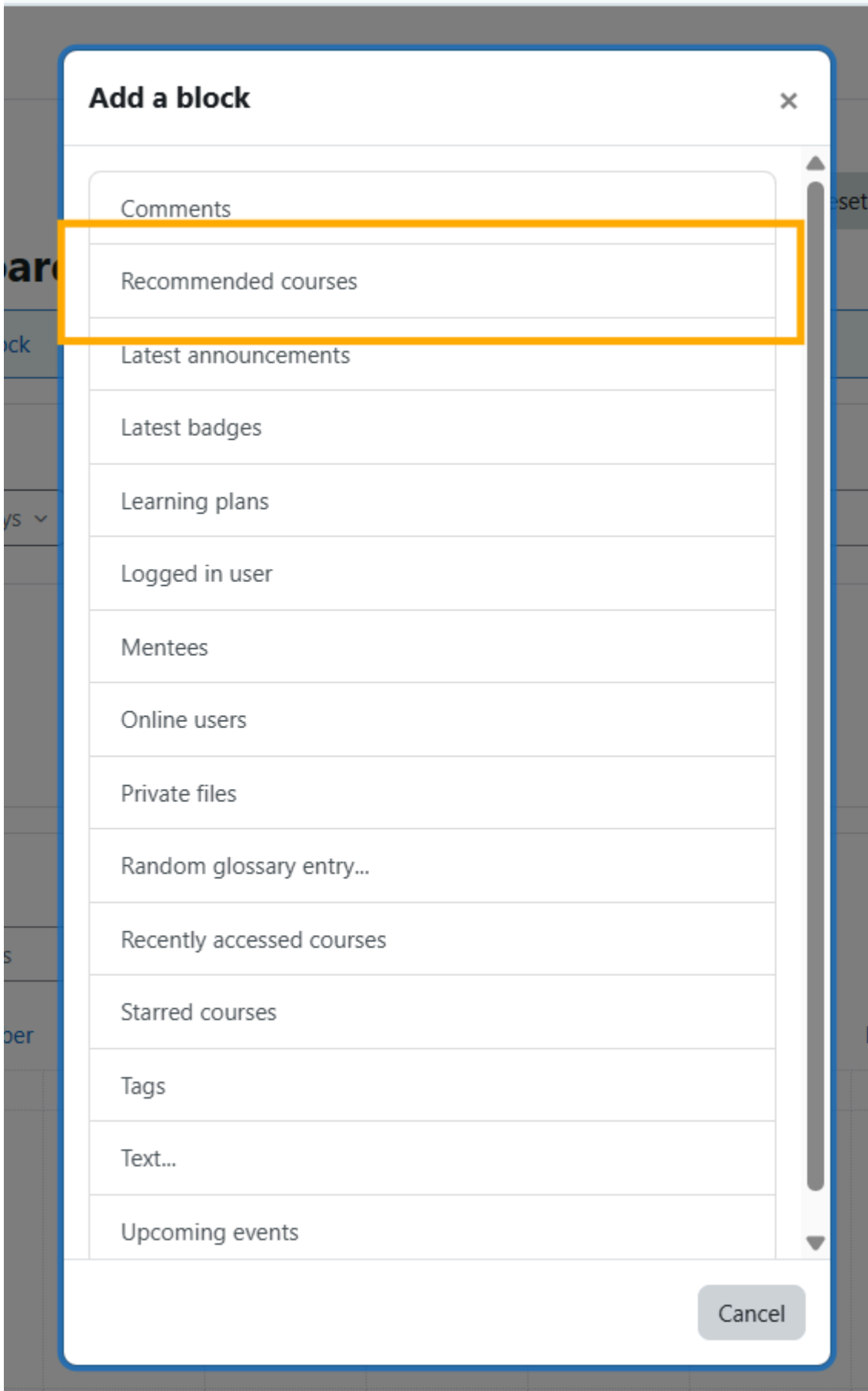
Step 2: Add a Block

Click on the "Add a block" option in the dashboard.



Step 3: Select the Block

Choose **Recommended Courses** from the list of available blocks.



The image shows a modal dialog box titled "Add a block" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The dialog contains a list of available blocks. The "Recommended courses" block is highlighted with a yellow rectangular border. The list of blocks includes:

- Comments
- Recommended courses
- Latest announcements
- Latest badges
- Learning plans
- Logged in user
- Mentees
- Online users
- Private files
- Random glossary entry...
- Recently accessed courses
- Starred courses
- Tags
- Text...
- Upcoming events


A "Cancel" button is located at the bottom right of the dialog box.

Step 4: View the Block


The block will appear on your page, displaying recommended courses based on the student's activity information from the Ranking Activities AI plugin.

Courses based on your preferences


Card view ▾



Word 2
Overall satisfaction: 100%
Category preference: 100%



python 2
Overall satisfaction: 0%
Category preference: 100%



Python 1
Overall satisfaction: 0%
Category preference: 100%

Powered by [Datacurso LLC](#)

Verifying Dependencies

Ensure that the following plugins are:

- **Active:** Both Ranking Activities AI and DataCourse AI Provider must be enabled
- **Licensed:** The DataCourse AI Provider must have a valid license key configured

Display Options

Students can customize their view using the selector to choose between:

- **Cards View:** Visual layout with thumbnails
- **List View:** Compact text-based layout



Changelog

Centralized record of all changes made to the project across versions. This section provides a chronological overview of new features, improvements, bug fixes, and breaking changes introduced in each release.

Use this page to track the evolution of the project, understand what has changed between versions, and identify updates that may require configuration changes or code adjustments.

Each entry includes the version number, release date, and a summary of the modifications introduced in that version.



Version 1.0.4

Release date: 2025-12-30T20:51:09Z

Summary

This version includes improvements and updates focused on configuration flexibility, translation coverage, and clearer version history.

Changes

Compatibility

- **Moodle compatibility:** This version is compatible only with Moodle 4.5, 5.0 and 5.1, helping ensure the plugin is used within supported platform versions.

Changed

- **Support only for Moodle 4.5, 5.0 and 5.1:** Added \$plugin->supported in version.php to declare Moodle 4.5, 5.0 and 5.1 and upload release 1.0.4, preventing installation or use on unsupported Moodle versions.
 - **Release bump to 1.0.4:** The plugin release number was updated to 1.0.4, aligning the published release identifier with the updated compatibility declaration.
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Notes

- If you manage multiple Moodle environments, verify the configured DataCurso service URL matches your deployment (standard vs EU-hosted).
- After updating, confirm the plugin version is correctly reflected in Moodle's plugin overview.

