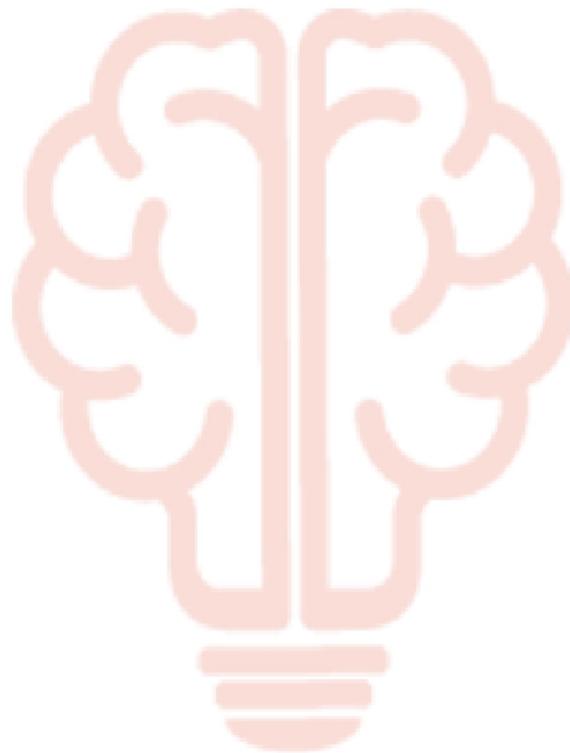


# Recommended Courses Block

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](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.

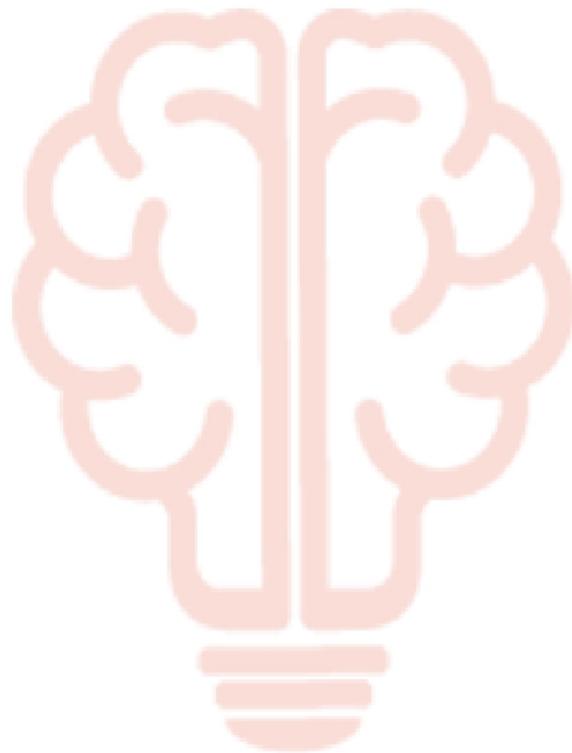
- Download: [https://moodle.org/plugins/aiprovider\\_datacurso/versions](https://moodle.org/plugins/aiprovider_datacurso/versions)
- License configuration: [../datacurso-ai-provider/getting-license-keys](https://moodle.org/plugins/aiprovider_datacurso/versions)

## 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:

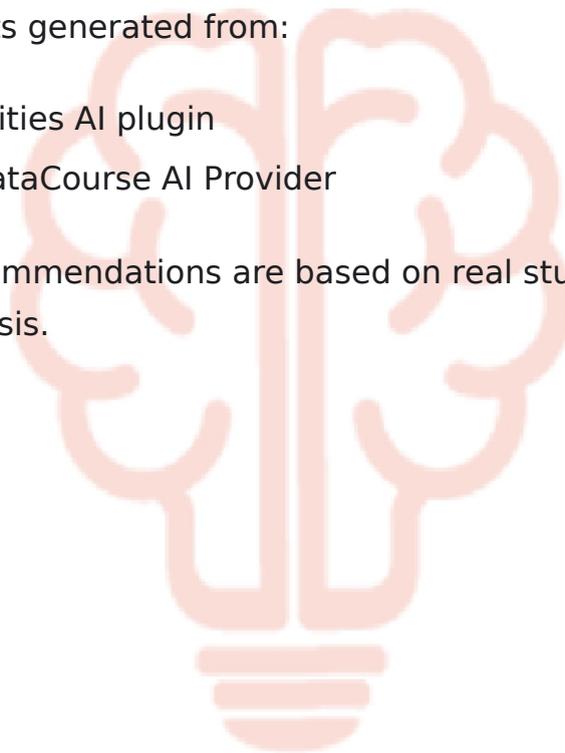
- Modern, adaptive layout that fits perfectly with Moodle's dashboard
- Responsive design that works on all devices
- Clean visual presentation of course information

## 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)

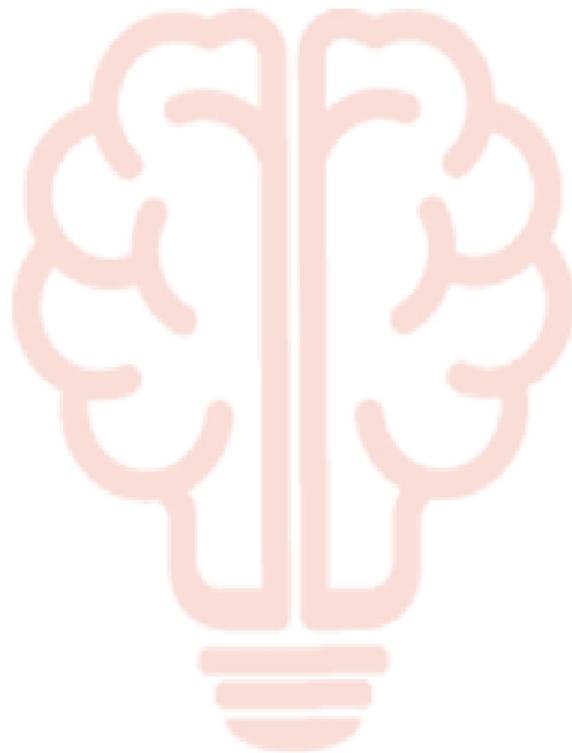
## User Interaction

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.



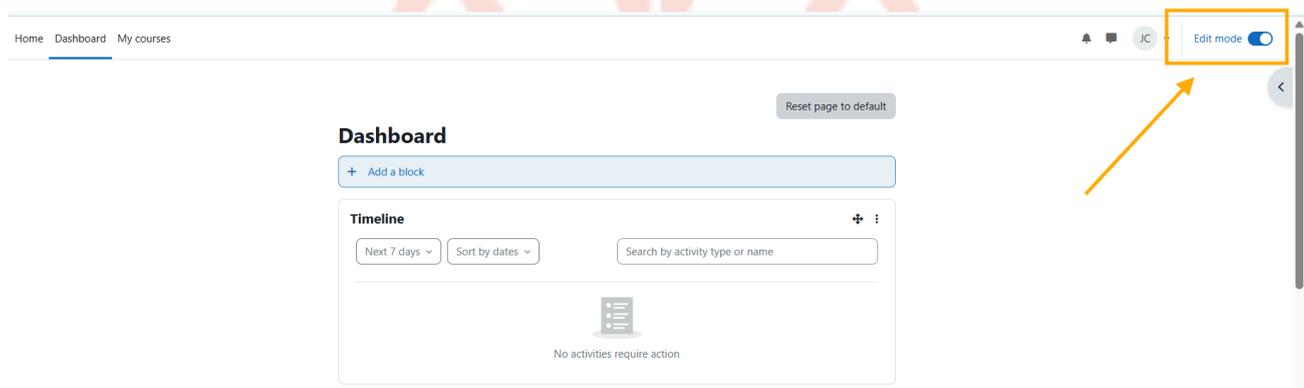
# User Guide

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

## Adding the Block to Dashboard

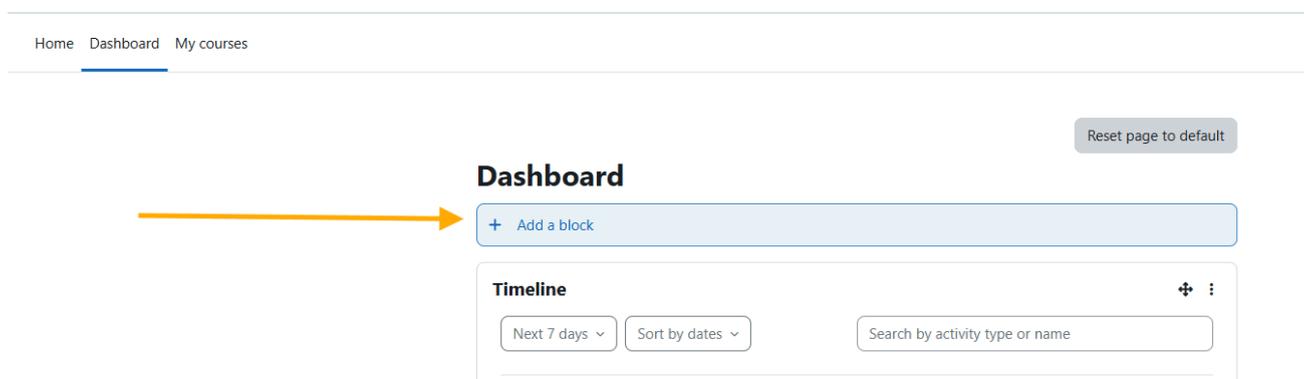
### Step 1: Activate Edit Mode

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



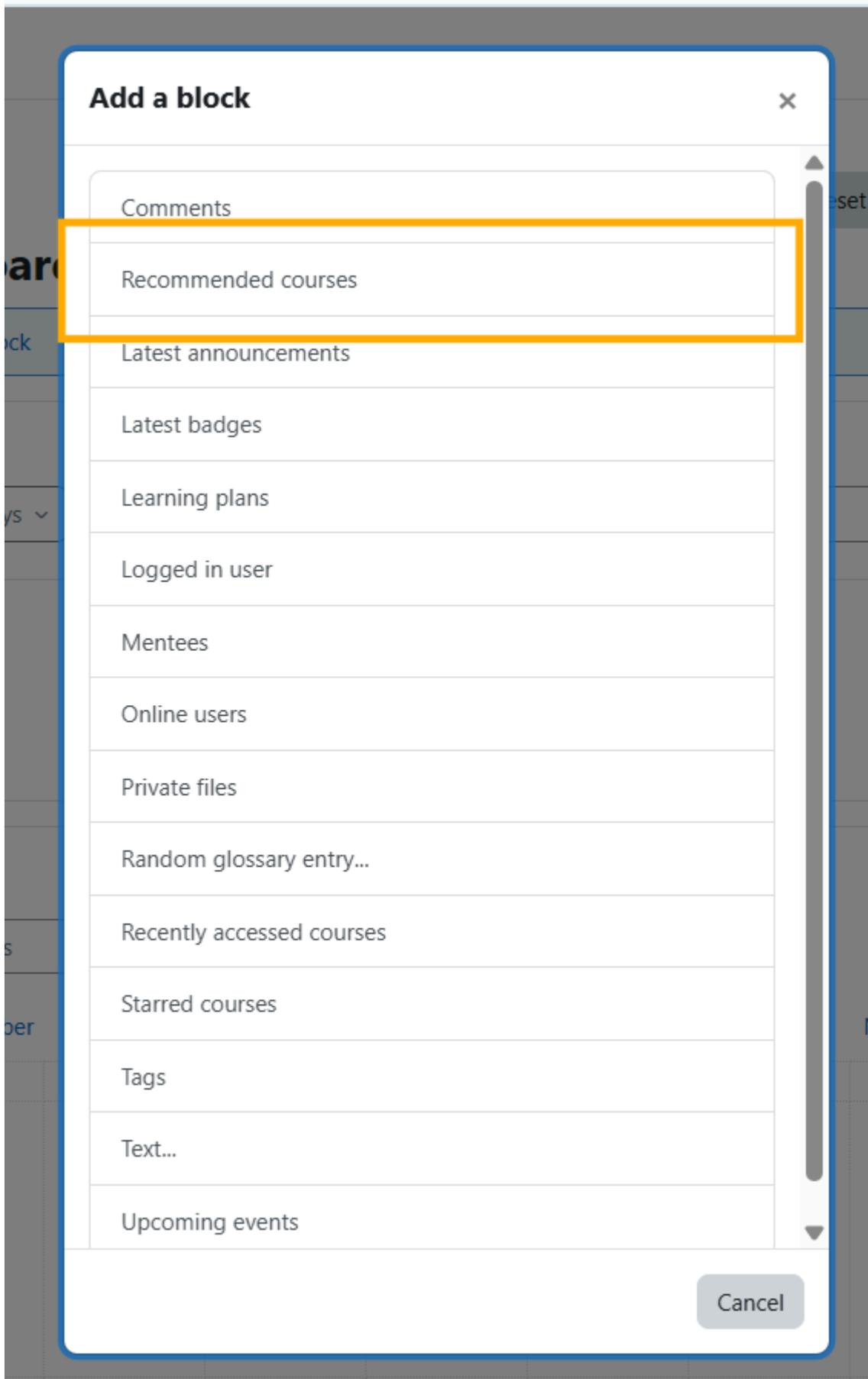
### Step 2: Add a Block

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



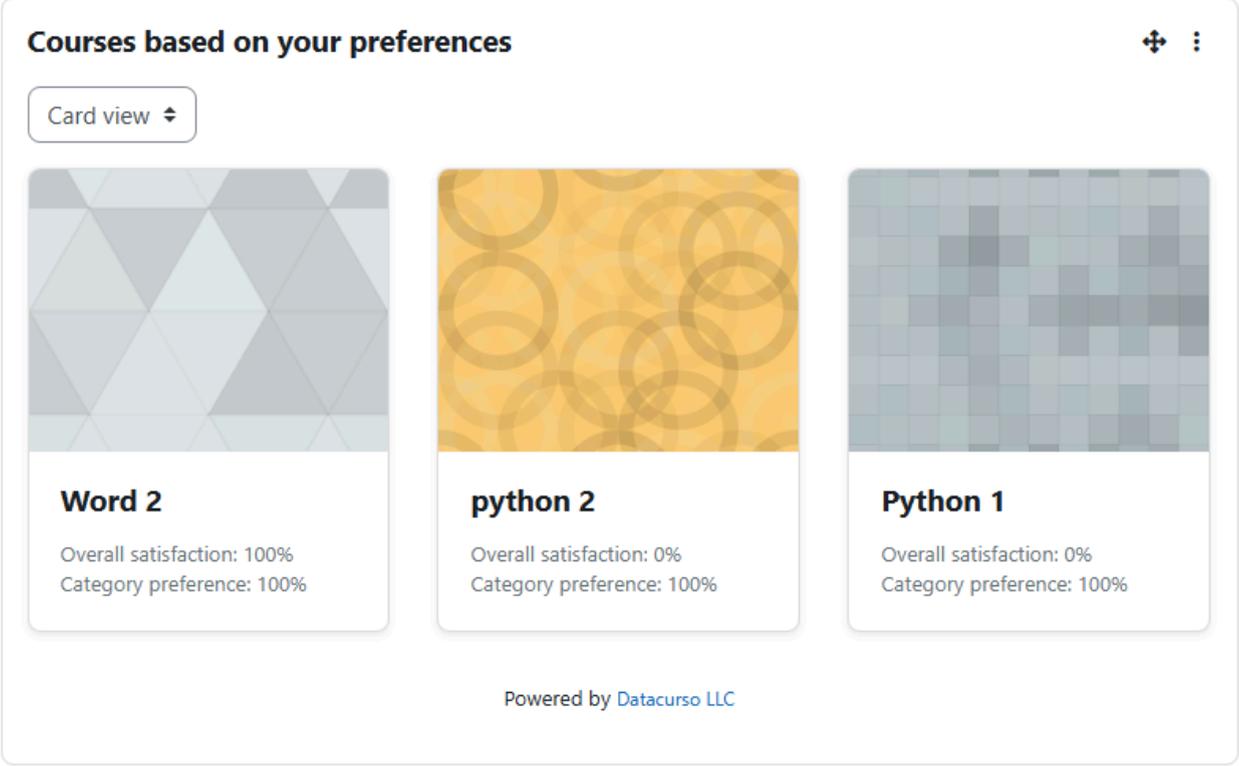
### Step 3: Select the Block

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



## 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.



The screenshot shows a user interface for 'Courses based on your preferences'. At the top left, there is a title 'Courses based on your preferences' and a plus sign icon. Below the title is a 'Card view' selector with a dropdown arrow. Three course cards are displayed in a row. Each card has a background image and a white text box at the bottom. The first card is titled 'Word 2' and has 'Overall satisfaction: 100%' and 'Category preference: 100%'. The second card is titled 'python 2' and has 'Overall satisfaction: 0%' and 'Category preference: 100%'. The third card is titled 'Python 1' and has 'Overall satisfaction: 0%' and 'Category preference: 100%'. At the bottom center of the block, it says 'Powered by Datacurso LLC'.

| Course Title | Overall satisfaction | Category preference |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Word 2       | 100%                 | 100%                |
| python 2     | 0%                   | 100%                |
| Python 1     | 0%                   | 100%                |

## Verifying Dependencies

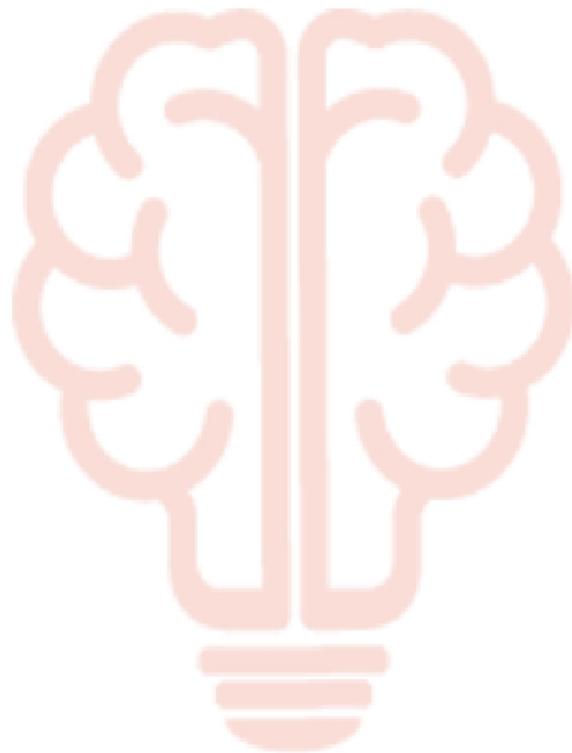
Ensure that the following plugins are:

- **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



# DataCurso

## Recomendate block permissions

The following table summarises the main permissions used by the **DataCurso Recomendate** block and their default role assignments.

| Name   | Description   | Default roles            |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| <code>block/datacurso_recomendate:myaddinstance</code> | Allow the user to add the Recommended courses block to their personal Dashboard.    | User                     |
| <code>block/datacurso_recomendate:addinstance</code>   | Allow the user to place the block on site pages such as the front page or a course. | Manager, Editing teacher |

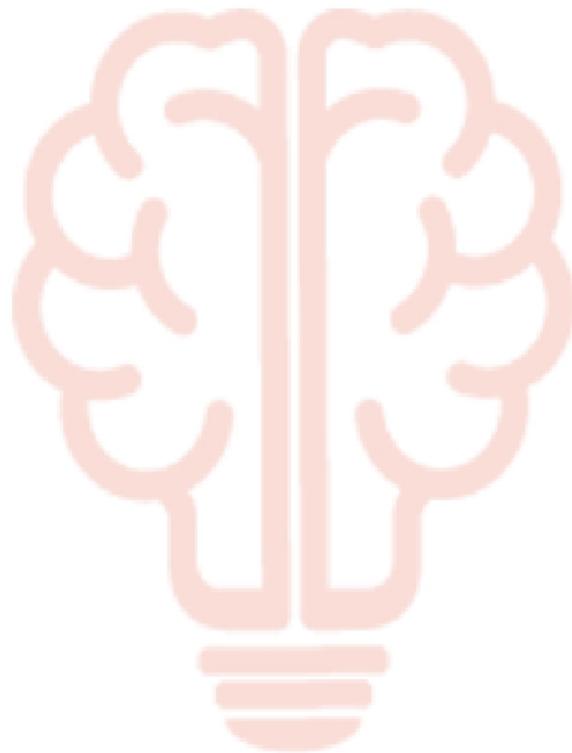
### `block/datacurso_recomendate:myaddinstance`

Allows users to add the **Recommended courses** block to their personal Dashboard (`/my/` page) when customising the layout.

With this permission, a user can:

- Turn on editing in the Dashboard and insert the Recommended courses block.
- Configure the block's display options for their own view (switch between cards/list, paginate recommendations).
- Remove the block from their Dashboard when it is no longer needed.

The permission is intended for the general `User` role so everyone can opt in to viewing their personalised course suggestions.



The image shows a 'Add a block' dialog box with a list of block types. The 'Recommended courses' block is highlighted with an orange border. The dialog box has a title bar with a close button (X) and a scrollable list of options. A 'Cancel' button is located at the bottom right of the dialog.

| Block Type                 |
|----------------------------|
| Comments                   |
| <b>Recommended courses</b> |
| 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            |

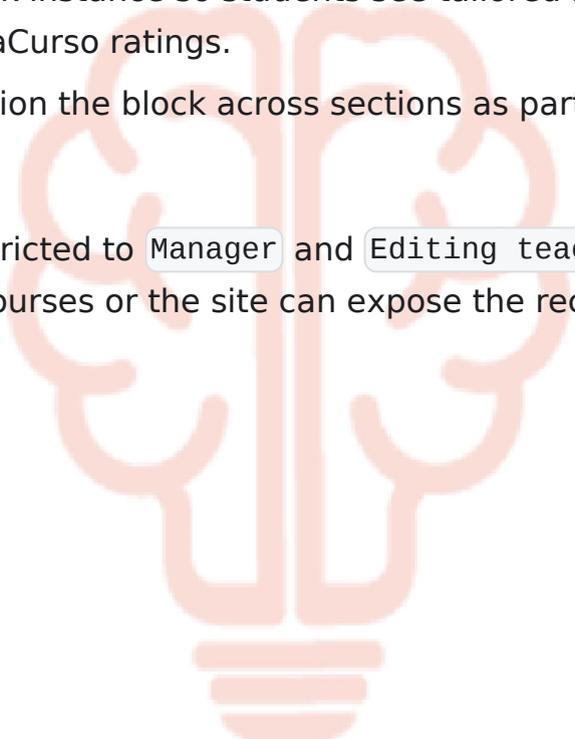
## block/datacurso\_recomendate:addinstance

Allows users to place the **Recommended courses** block on shared site pages (front page, courses, or other block-enabled areas).

With this permission, a user can:

- Turn editing on within a course or the site front page and add the block for all viewers of that page.
- Configure the block instance so students see tailored recommendations generated by DataCurso ratings.
- Remove or reposition the block across sections as part of course layout management.

This permission is restricted to `Manager` and `Editing teacher` roles so only staff responsible for courses or the site can expose the recommendation block to wider audiences.



### Add a block ×

- 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

Cancel