

Add Blocks

Each course page has a number of blocks, those blue-gray rectangles, that can be situated on the borders of the course page. The list is long, and the terminology can be vague, so here is a list of the useful blocks that can be added (some of which are default).

Activities – This block provides links to all of the activities in your course by type.

Administration – This block has links to useful features including grades, page settings, and files. For students, it has only Grades and Edit Profile.

Anonymous Comments – These blocks allow you to ask students for anonymous feedback. When they send a message in the text box that it creates, it will automatically be sent to you embedded in a message from “Administrative user” and the next time you are in Moodle a window will pop open with the message, or the message may appear in your messages block if you have that on your page. If there is more than one teacher in the course, you may choose to which person the messages are sent.

Blocks – When you have editing on, the Blocks block is visible and allows you to add the other blocks listed here.

Blog menu – The blog menu block provides links to add or view Moodle blog entries.

Blog tags – This block adds links to all of the blog entries that have been tagged within a given period of time, sorted by the tag.

Calendar – As might be expected, this block displays a calendar with a month at a time displayed. It will also show a symbol next to a date to indicate an event occurring that day, or an assignment due that day.

Course menu – The course menu block aids in navigation through a course page, especially if there’s a lot of information on it. It provides links to each section of the page, labeled with the title of the section. Additionally, there is a link to the “Control Panel” which gives you intuitive access to all of the information in the Administration block.

Course/Site description – This block displays the text that is in the Summary on the Course Settings page.

Gould Library – This block displays the name and contact information of the library liaison for your department. For a inter-disciplinary course that may take advantage of more than one liaison, you may add departments by editing the block and the appropriate liaison(s) will be added automatically.

HTML – This block lets you add whatever text or images you may want to appear on the side of your course page as a block.

Latest News – This block displays the subject of (and links to) recent posts to the News Forum.

Loan Calculator – This block calculates information about loans.

Mentees– This block displays links to the profile pages of the individual user’s mentees, if the user has any.

Messages – This block displays messages waiting for the individual user.

My courses – This block displays links to all of the courses in which the individual user is enrolled.

People – Provides a link to view all of the participants of a course.

Quiz results – This block allows you to display a certain number of the highest and/or lowest scores on a quiz. You can choose whether these results are anonymous or labeled by user’s full name.

Random Glossary Entry – This block displays an entry from a glossary on your course page, either randomly or by a set method.

Recent activity – This block reports any updates or additions to the course site since the last time the user logged in. This is very handy for students to see if things have been changed since the last time they visited the page.

Remote RSS Feed – This block lets you choose from a long list of news sources to display the most recent headlines – these news sources may be broad (NYTimes) or narrow (NYTimes Arts section).

Search forums – This block allows you to search the forums for something.

Section links – This block lets you skip to any section of the page by clicking on it.

Tags – This block displays a specified number of tags with links to a list of everything with that tag.

Upcoming Events – This block displays upcoming events and assignments along with a link to the calendar.

Who’s on Skype – If you use Skype, this block lets you see who else is on.