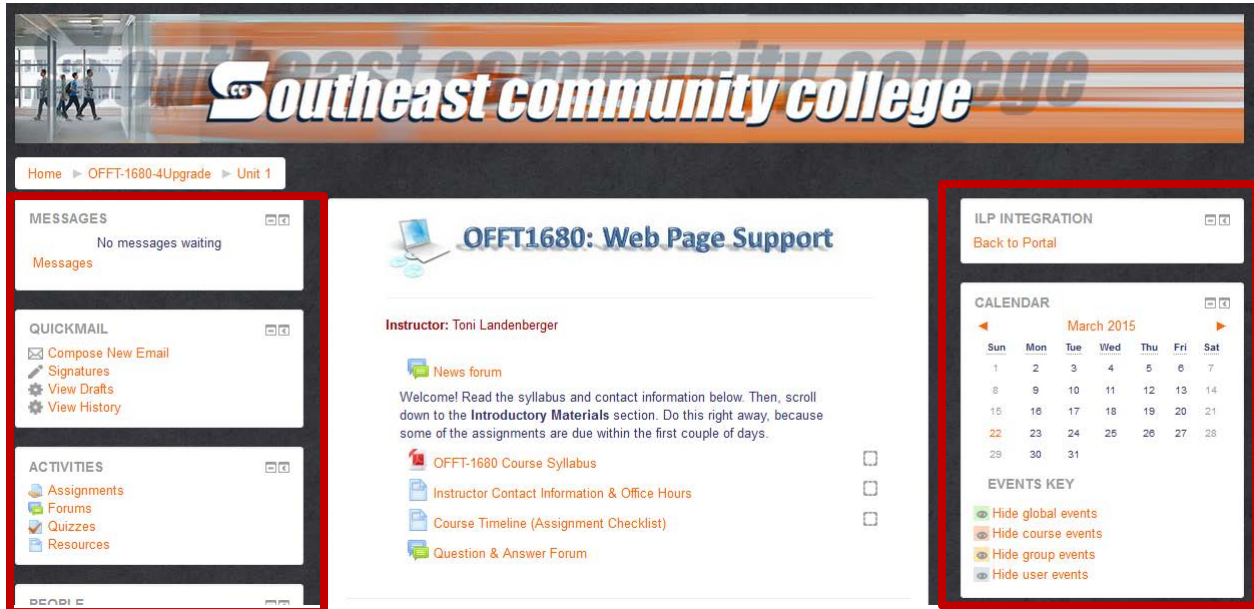# Tips for Moodle Blocks

Overview

Blocks in Moodle appear on the left and right side of the Moodle course page. The center section contains the main course content. The Moodle blocks are shown outlined in red below.

Blocks provide links to various locations within Moodle, such as links to Messages or to your Grades. Blocks can also be hidden (collapsed) or docked so that they take up less space.

Showing/Hiding a Block

Each block has two buttons along the top-right edge of the block. The first one will hide (collapse) or show (expand) a block. If a block is fully visible, the button will look like a hyphen or minus sign as shown in the first image to the right. If you click that button, the block will collapse down to just the block heading displaying as is shown in the second image of the Messages block to the right. This hides the block. When the block is hidden (collapsed), all you see is the name of the block. When it is collapsed like that, the first button is now a plus sign. You can click the plus sign to show the block or expand the block back to its full view.
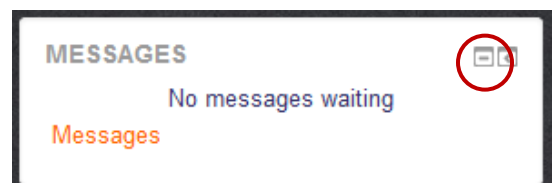
Docking/Undocking a Block

Blocks can also be docked to the left side of the browser window. This gets the blocks out of the way and allows more of the browser window space to be devoted to the main course content. It is also useful if you want to print the course content without printing all of the blocks along with it. To dock a block, you click the second button that is shown in the top-right hand corner of the block. This moves the block to the dock area along the left side of the browser window. An example of a docked Messages block is shown in the second image to the right. When a block is docked, you can access all of the blocks commands by hovering your mouse over the block name. This will cause the block to temporarily pop open as shown in the third image to the right. You can then click on any link that is shown in the block. Some users like to dock all of their blocks and only access them by hovering over the block name in the dock on the left.

When a block is docked, you can undock it by clicking the "Undock this item" button which is the first button that displays (circled in the third image to the right).
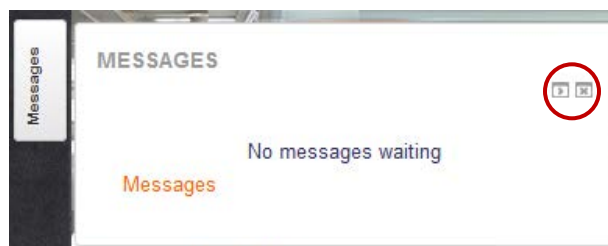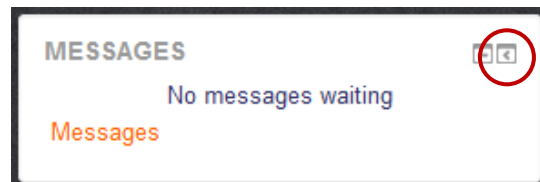
If you want to undock all blocks at one time, there is an "Undock all" button in the bottom left corner of the Moodle window.