Recommender system for courses at Aalto University
Problem Analysis

by Tinka Valentijn
tinka.valentijn@aalto.fi

In cooperation with Aalto Online Learning

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Introduction

Why this document?

- I am doing research on developing a recommender system for courses taught at Aalto University.

- This research is done in cooperation with Aalto Online Learning and funded by the Honours Programme in Information and Computer Science.

- Before going to solutions I wanted to analyse the problem, this is the result.

- This analysis is based on my own thoughts and discussions with students, graduates and teachers.

- I am sure this analysis is incomplete, so use it as a starting point.

- These results can be used for any purpose, as long as properly acknowledged to me.

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Situation

How do students find courses?

Study Coordinator

Posters
Awesome course

Friends

Seniors

Other courses

Featured in Aalto news
e.g. IMDB UWAS

Studyguide

Search engine

Department

Newsletter
NEWS

Chat groups

Study Platforms

Asking teachers
? →

Guild

Aalto news
AYY
Guild
School
Initiatives, e.g. UWAS, sustainability

WhatsApp
Telegram
Snapchat

MyCourses
Oodi
Into
courses.aalto.fi
varjoopintopas.fi

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Criteria

How do students select courses?

Content	Language	Student's degree programme
Student's Skills & knowledge	Professor	Student's interest
Familiarity	Difficulty	Prerequisites
Experience others	Schedule	Period
Stage of studies	Future career	Social acceptance
# ECTS	Teaching methods	Learning outcomes
Department	Negative recommendations	Location
Combination other courses	Degree of freedom	Perceived on degree certificate

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Problems

What are problems of the current course selection process?

Hard to find unknown, fitting courses

Select courses based on limited information

Online: only search by title

Mainly information from network

Lack of external motivation to discover

Prerequisites unknown ?

No insight if courses fit in schedule ?

Unclear which courses accessible for who ?

Connection between courses unknown

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