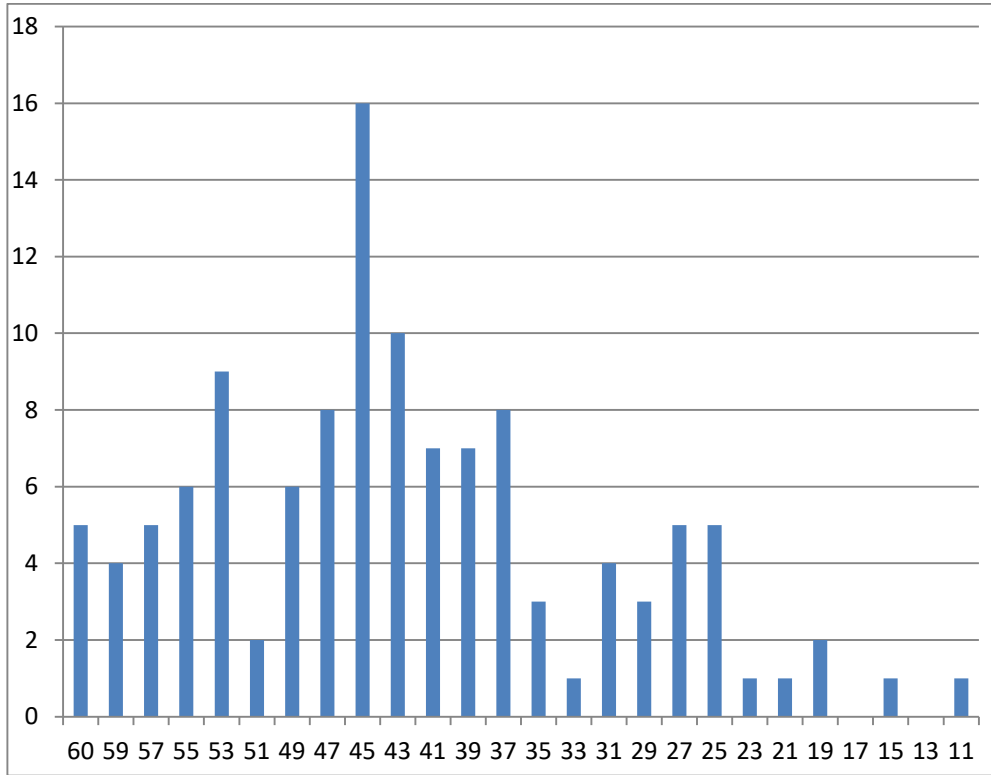


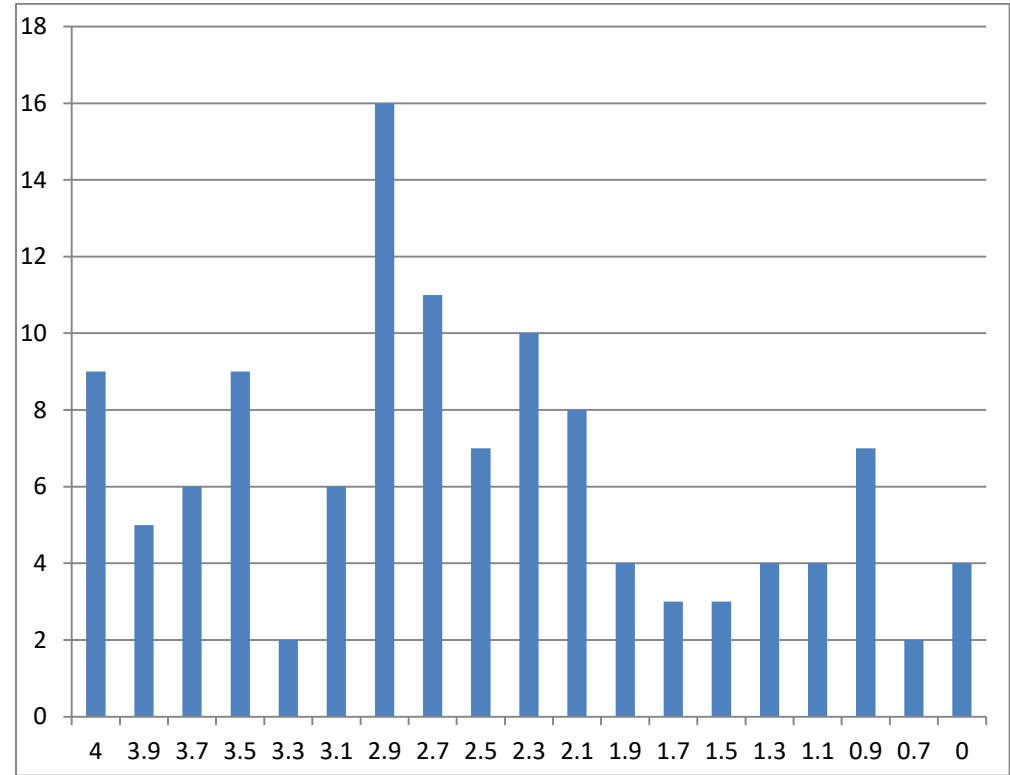
Math 124 Exam 1 Statistics



Quartile 1	52	86.7%
Median	45	75.0%
Quartile 3	37.75	62.9%

- 5 perfect exams
- 24 exams above 90%
- 27 exams below 60%
- 6 exams below 50%

Math 124 Grade Statistics



Quartile 1	3.4
Median	2.9
Quartile 3	2.0

This grade means nothing to me, because we still have a second midterm and a final remaining and your grade can still change dramatically.

The four most common questions

1. Can I get a 4.0?

The 4.0 grade is reserved for only the very top students in the class that get perfect scores on almost everything. Grades of 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9 are all excellent and look great on transcripts. It is great to strive for a 4.0, but understand it is difficult to attain. (Sometimes students email me in a panic and want to argue points because they got a 3.5; I am happy to talk to you, but a 3.5 is not an emergency it is a great grade!).

2. Can I get a 2.0?

The grade of 2.0 is what is needed to move onto Math 125. If you want to guarantee a 2.0 in my class, then you typically need to average above 70% on the exams. So if your first exam score was below 60%, then your other exams will need to definitely be above 75% if you want to move on to the next course.

3. I got below 60% on the first test, should I drop?

That is up to you. Below 60% on the first test indicates you have a lot of holes in your understanding.

If you want a fresh start, retake the class.

But I don't want you to drop. **Everyone** can still pass this class (even if you got 20% on the first test), because I take improvement into account. If you do well on the second exam and final, then you still can get grades above 3.0 even if you have a 0.0 right now!

4. I studied hard and did what you said Dr. Loveless and I still did badly. You are a jerk Dr. Loveless and your test was unfair. Give me more advice for how to do well in this course and this time give me advice that works.

Of course, I am joking, students don't say this. But lots of students will ask me over the next week for advice on how to do better. I have already given this advice in many forms and in

many ways, go read the newsletters again and see if that advice is more helpful now.

Then, cut yourself some slack. Some students that come to me saying "I did terrible on the test" and when I look up their grade I see a grade of 2.5 in the class. A 2.5 isn't terrible. If you follow my advice, I am *not* going to guarantee a grade above 3.0. But you can definitely pass and get above a 2.4 if you follow my advice (unless your math background has a lot of big holes, in which case you may be a student that has to retake which isn't a big deal).

Second, read again my "Recipe for Success" (I handed this out the first day with the syllabus and it is on the course website) and reread my weekly newsletters. My advice boils down to this:

1. Treat homework like it is an exam.
2. Work old exam problems each week after you complete the homework (the newsletters will help with this).
3. Work old exam problems in an exam-like situation.
4. *At least one week* before the midterm, work through 5+ old midterms in detail and show me, your TA, or a tutor your work, so we can give advice.
5. When you take the test:
 - (a) Manage your time effectively
 - (b) Check your work!
 - i) Check solutions to equations.
 - ii) Check integrals.
 - iii) Check reasonableness.
 - iv) Scan over your work.
 - (c) Show what you know.
 - i) Don't leave anything blank
 - ii) If stuck, write a note to the grader and continue trying to show what you know.