Math 125 Exam 1 Statistics

Math 125 Grade Statistics
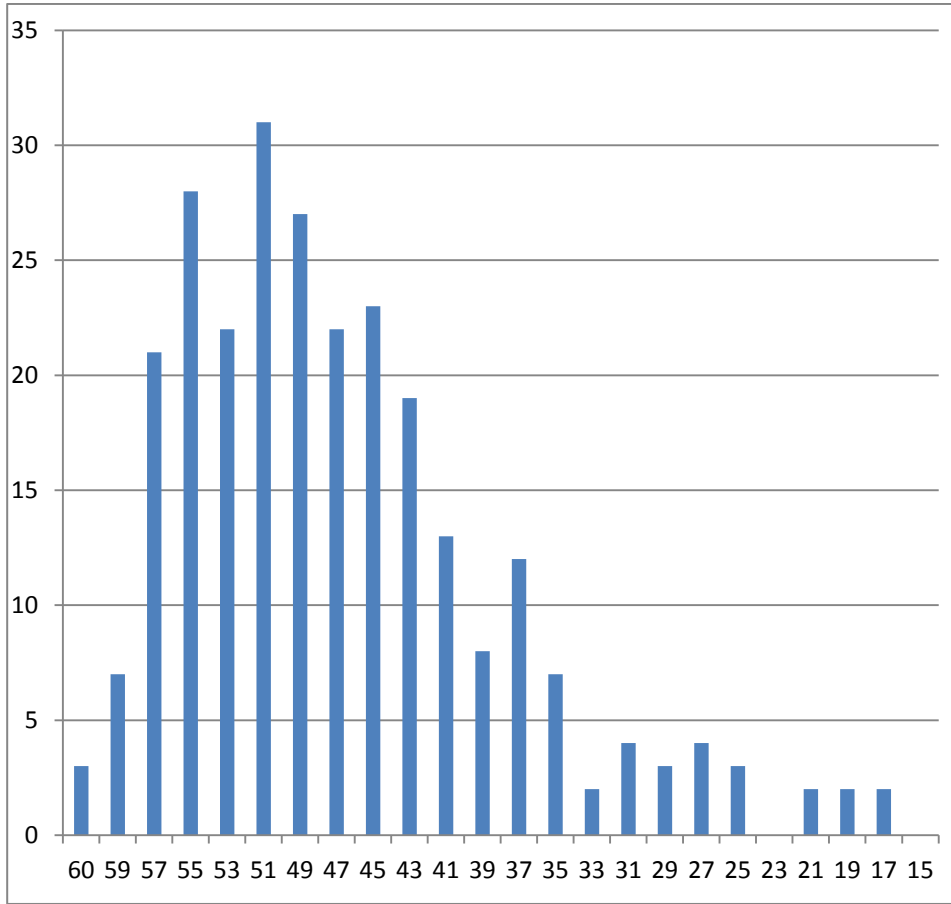
Quartile 1	54	90%
Median	49	81.7%
Quartile 3	43	71.7%
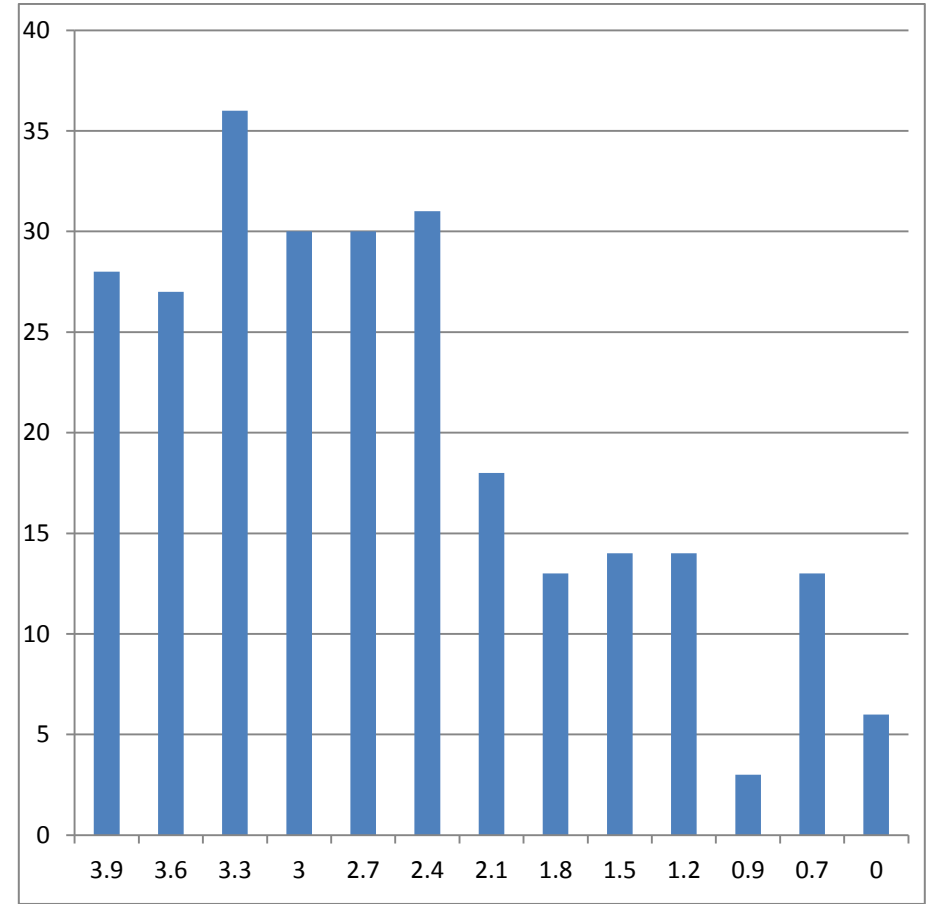
Quartile 1	3.5
Median	2.9
Quartile 3	2.2

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. Grades of 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9 are excellent. You shouldn't waste any energy being upset that you have a 3.7 instead of a 4.0. Debates about 4.0 grades are a waste of your time and my time.

2. Can I get a 2.0?

The grade of 2.0 is what is needed to move onto Math 126. If you want to guarantee a 2.0 in my class, then you need to average above 75% on the exams.

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 15% 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, your test was unfair and it is your fault (not mine). 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 a bit, students don't say this exactly. But lots of students will ask me over the next week for advice on how to do better. I believe I have already given this advice in many forms and in many ways.

First, 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 2.7 in the class. A 2.7 isn't terrible, and shouldn't be a cause for panic. My advice does not guarantee a 4.0, but if you follow my advice carefully, you can definitely get at or above the median.

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. Never use the "Watch it" or "practice another version". 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 3-4 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 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.