

Determining Median and Mode

For illustrative purposes, a student earns these scores on eleven criteria items on a 4-point scale:

1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4.

Here is how to calculate the median and mode.

Definition	How to Do It	Example
<p>Median</p> <p>The middle value of a set of numbers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewrite the list of numbers in order from smallest to largest. • Select the middle one. • If there is an odd number of items, the median is the middle entry after sorting the numbers in order. • If the list of numbers is even, calculate the median by adding the two middle numbers and dividing by two. 	<p>1, 2, 2, 2, 3, (3), 3, 3, 4, 4, 4</p>
<p>Mode</p> <p>The number in the list that is repeated more often than any other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewrite the numbers in order. • Determine the number that is repeated most frequently. • There can be more than one mode. 	<p>1, 2, 2, 2, (3, 3, 3, 3), 4, 4, 4</p>