

Comparing the Effectiveness of OSHA-10 Online Safety Courses to OSHA-10 In-Person Safety Courses.

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Since 1970, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) was designed to create a safe workplace for everyone, has increased safety awareness, and decreased occurrences of injury and death on construction-related job sites (Department of Labor/OSHA Strategic Plan, n.d.). Until 2001, construction safety education was taught through face-to-face interaction between an instructor and an employee. However, in 2001, safety courses became available through multiple online platforms with the ability to be completed virtually. Online safety courses provide an alternative from face-to-face training and allow the employee to complete the training at their own pace. However, some research indicates that online safety courses are not as effective in training employees on the skills necessary to identify and mitigate unsafe working conditions. Utilizing a quantitative survey, thirty nine of Cal Poly construction management students, who completed ClickSafety's OSHA-10 online course, took a quiz designed to test their knowledge of OSHA-10 course material. The survey results suggest that the majority of students are not retaining the information addressed in the online safety course. The findings of this case study demonstrate the need for more research to determine the effectiveness of online safety courses.

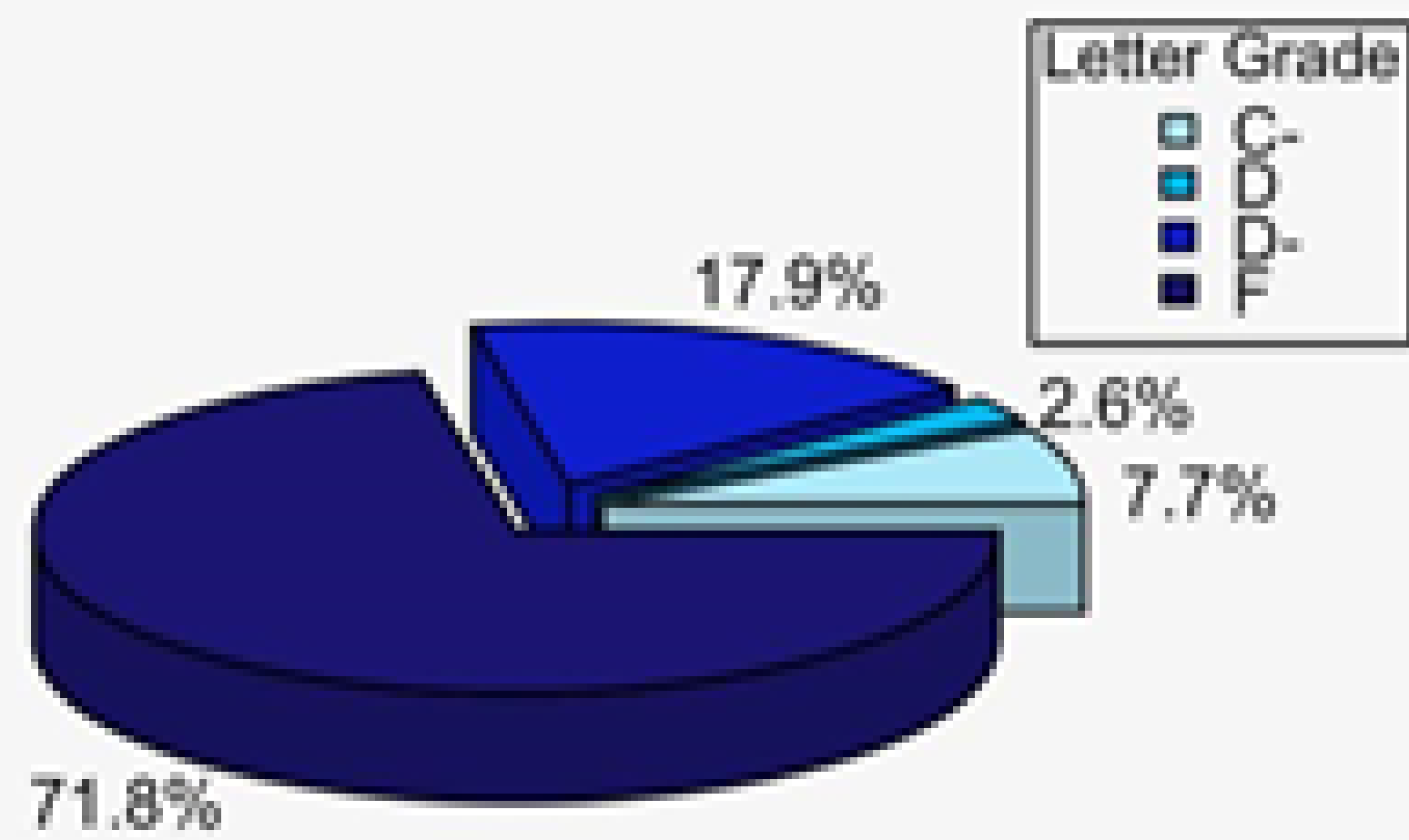


Figure 1: Pie Chart of Letter Grade Distribution For Cal Poly CM Students Quiz Scores

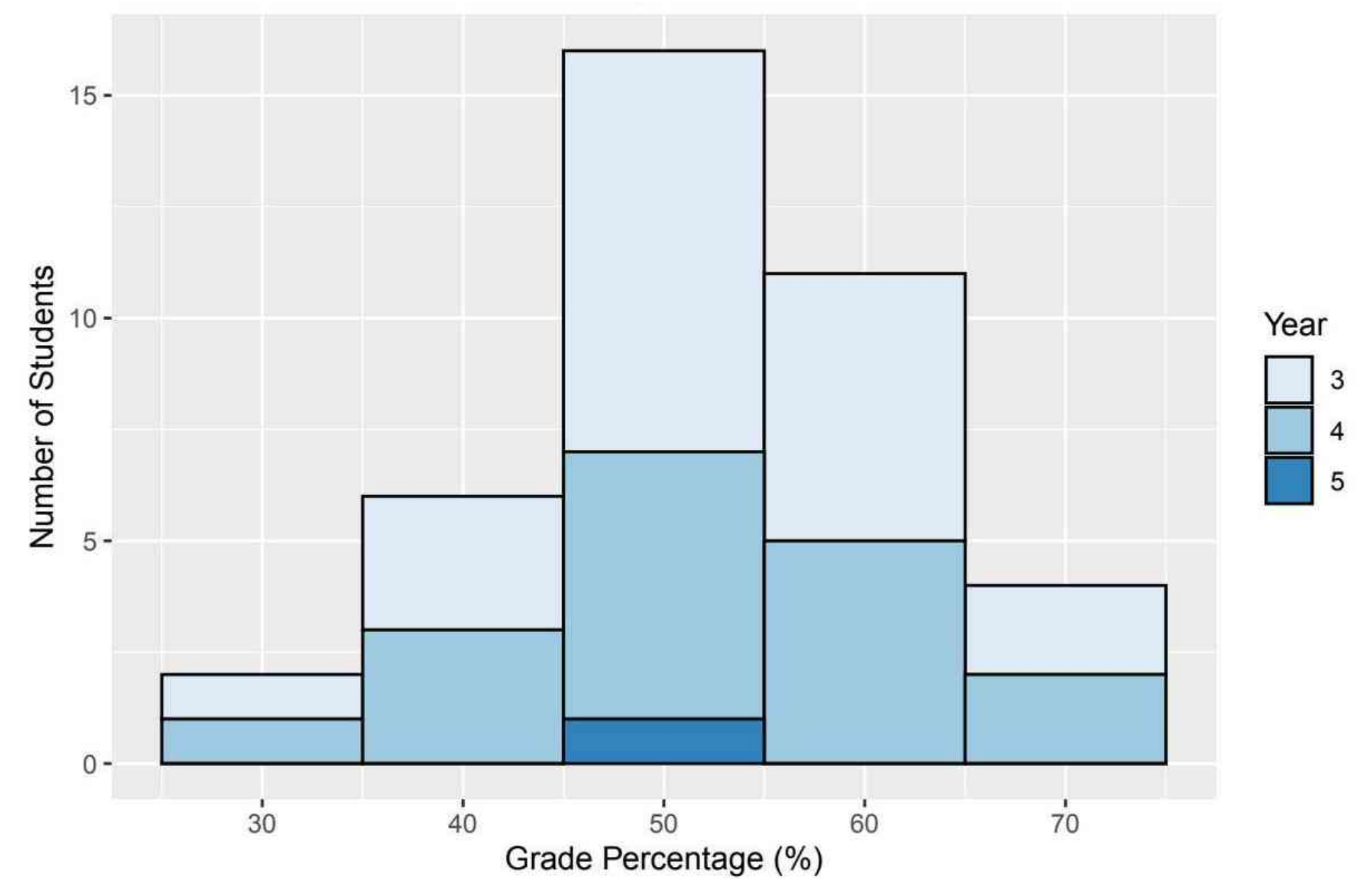


Figure 3: Histogram of Cal Poly CM Students Quiz Scores

Pie Chart of Letter Grade Distribution Summary:

- Out of 39 students, no one scored above a C-.
- 71.8% of respondents received a failing grade.

Bar Chart of Cal Poly Student Quiz Scores Summary:

- 28 students received an F.
- 71.8% of respondents received a failing grade.

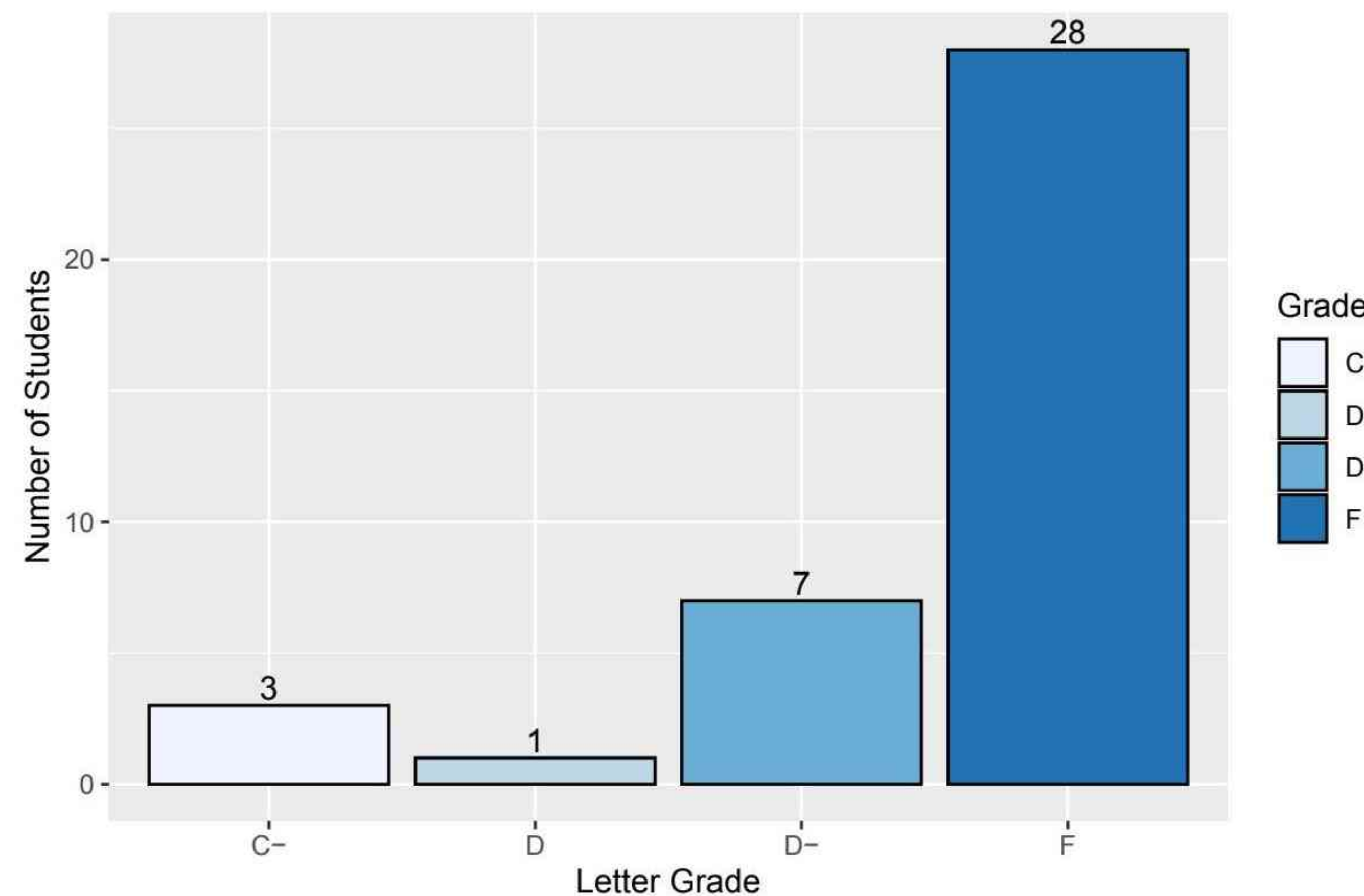


Figure 2: Bar Chart of Cal Poly CM Students Quiz Scores

Histogram of Cal Poly Student Quiz Scores Summary:

- Overall, data appears to be normal and bell-shaped with the average test score of 51.84%.
- Distribution of the scores by year in college appear to be normal for third and fourth years.

Conclusion:

While online safety courses such as OSHA-10 and OSHA-30 are efficient, cheap, and easy ways for companies to educate and certify their employees, this case study shows further research into the effectiveness of online safety courses is needed.