

Graham County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles



Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro
Local Education Agencies: 1 (2023)
Charter Schools: 0 (2023)

2030 Proposed Graham County Attainment Goal: 1,248 (Stretch Goal: 1,263)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 8,029
 2022 Estimate: 7,980
 Change: -49

Growth Rate

-0.6% County vs. **2.5%** State



\$50,301
 Median Household Income (2022)
 State: \$67,516



80%
 Home Owners (2022)
 State: 67%



9.5%
 Child Poverty Rate (2022)
 State: 17.2%



12.7%
 Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
 State: 10.9%



56%
 Households with Broadband (2022)
 State: 77%



5.4%
 Unemployment Rate (2022)
 State: 3.7%

Educational Attainment

Graham County residents ages 25-44, 2022

Less than high school High school graduate (including GED) Some college, no credential Short-term credential Associate degree Bachelor's degree Graduate or professional degree

No Degree
1,168
 66.3%

Have Degree or Credential
594
 33.7%



Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Top Opportunities for Growth

These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Graham County to improve future attainment outcomes.



NC Pre-K Enrollment

48% of Graham County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 68%.



FAFSA Completion

45% of Graham County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 61%.



Math Performance

17% of Graham County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural - non-metro county average of 29%.

Promising Attainment Practices

The new **Promising Attainment Practices Database** is a curated, searchable, and filterable collection of about 250 county, region, and state-level initiatives and programs that directly address various components of the state's attainment challenge. The Database allows local and regional initiative leaders and other stakeholders to identify groups across the state who are developing or operating initiatives designed to boost attainment.

Follow link to discover how Graham County has been meeting local needs:

https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Graham

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

80.1%

of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:

Health Science all levels
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics below bachelor's
Business Management & Administration bachelor's



15 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

3,111 graduates in 2020

69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021

\$41,526 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

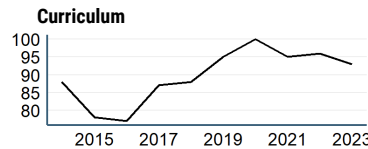


45% of adults (ages 25-44) in Graham County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

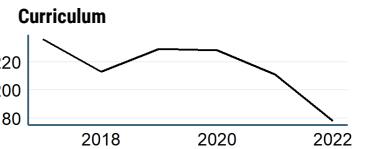
Graham County is served by:

Southwestern Workforce Development Board
 Southwestern Commission

UNC System College Enrollment



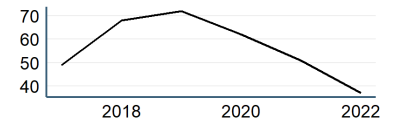
NC Community College Enrollment



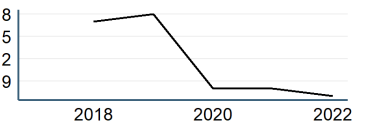
Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4%
Logisticians	4%
Medical and Health Services Managers	3%

First-time Curriculum Enrollments



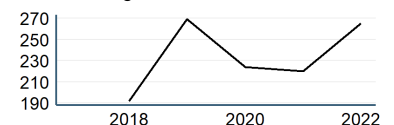
Basic Skills



Top 3 Employers in Graham County

Employer	Employment Range
Graham County Schools	100-249
Graham County	100-249
Crisp & Crisp Inc	50-99

Continuing Education



Adult Learners

Waynesville-Franklin Sub-Prosperity Zone post-secondary enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 148 Basic Skills
- 3,797 Continuing Education
- 1,037 Curriculum

5% of Graham County residents have **student loan debt**; 0% of debt holders had **student loans in default**. 2022

Success of Graham County High School Graduates

- 61% of students who enroll **persist to their second year** versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 56% of students who enroll **earn a degree or certificate** within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 217 of all college-goers attended **Tri-County CC**
- 72 of all college-goers attended **Southwestern CC**
- 12 of all college-goers attended **Western Carolina University**

45% of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 31 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023

56% of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022

45% of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties. 2022

53% of Graham County students have **parents with no college degree** (either 2- or 4-year) versus 55% in peer counties.

How students in Graham County traditional schools are doing:

48% of eligible 4-year-olds **enrolled in NC Pre-K program**, compared to 53% statewide; 13 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023

20% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to 30% statewide; 313 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023

17% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**, compared to 35% statewide; 330 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023

91% of 9th graders **graduate within four years**, compared to 87% statewide; 3 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023

34% of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to 27% statewide; 265 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023

Graham County has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of 347:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2023

0% of students **drop out of high school** (0 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

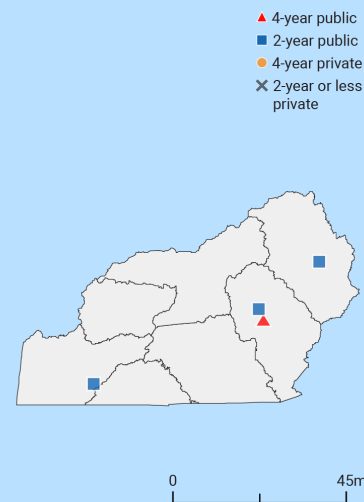
711 certificate | 823 associate | 2,570 bachelor's

Postsecondary assets in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone sub-region

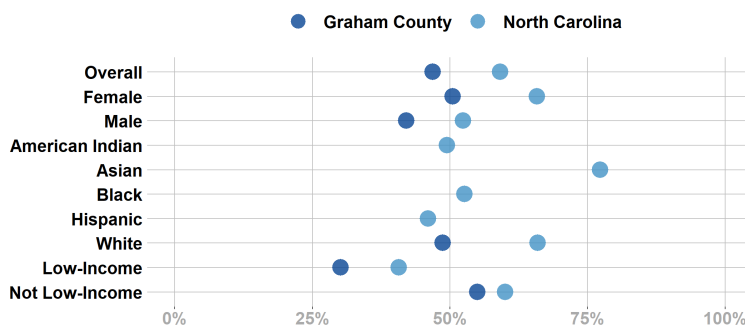
Public, 4-year or above
Western Carolina University

Public, 2-year
Haywood Community College,
Southwestern Community College, Tri-County Community College

Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
Private not-for-profit, 2-year



Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Graham County, 2022

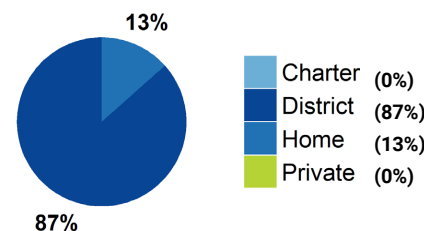


Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

School Choice

1,237 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Graham County in the 2022-23 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.



Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Graham County completed 325 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (68 (21%) were industry-valued credentials) and 62 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Business Management & Administration; Health Science; and Architecture and Construction.

16 high school students took at least one **AP test** (<5%) versus 8% in peer counties (2023).

48 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs** (55%) versus 51% in peer counties (2023).

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:

dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/