

Cape Fear

Council of Governments (COG)

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Counties in Council of Governments:
Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, and Pender Counties

Educational Attainment

Cape Fear COG residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
64,462
56.4%

No Degree
49,746
43.6%

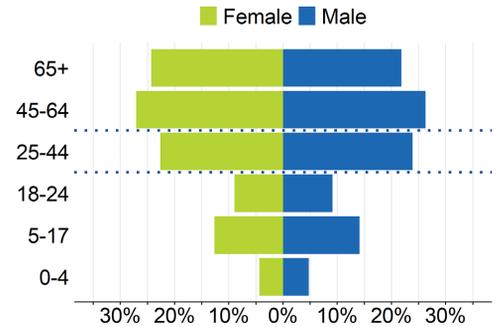
Residents Ages 25-44
114,208

Educational Level Breakdown, 2023

Graduate or Professional degree	10.7%
Bachelor's degree	25.8%
Associate degree	12.4%
Short-term credential	7.5%
Some college, no credential	13.6%
High school graduate (including GED)	21.7%
Less than high school	8.2%

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

Age Structure, 2023



2030 Proposed Cape Fear Attainment Goal: 92,905

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 473,230
2023 Estimate: 517,458
Change: 44,228

Growth Rate

9.3% vs. **3.8%**
County vs. **State**

Race/Ethnicity, 2023

Amer. Indian	0.5%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	1%
Black	12.1%
Hispanic	6.9%
Multiracial	4%
White	75.1%



\$76,194
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



71.3%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



77.6%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



15.4%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



13.3%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



4.6%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In Cape Fear :

865 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

6,009 graduates in 2020
66.4% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$44,328 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

53.2% of adults (ages 25-44) in Cape Fear earned a **family sustaining wage**. State: 57.6%, 2023

11.4% of youth (ages 16-24) in Cape Fear were **Opportunity Youth**. State: 10.3%, 2023

83.9% of adults (ages 25-44) in Cape Fear **participated in the labor force**. State: 84.2%, 2023

Cape Fear Labor Force Snapshot, 2024 Q2

Total Jobs	201,860	Business Establishments	18,900
Employed	240,905	Unemployed	9,853
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$1,065		

Top Industries in Cape Fear , 2024 Q2

Industry Name	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Health Care and Social Assistance	31,665	\$1,192
Accommodation and Food Services	27,646	\$472
Retail Trade	26,836	\$692
Construction	14,613	\$1,227
Educational Services	14,511	\$978

Top Job Sectors in Cape Fear , 2024 Q2

Job Sector	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Private	175,614	\$1,055
Local Government	16,894	\$1,056
State Government	7,421	\$1,171
Federal Government	1,931	\$1,687

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Degree Credentials Awarded in Cape Fear, 2023

1,245 certificate | 1,938 associate | 3,765 bachelor's

Adult Learners

Cape Fear Residents Aged 25+ enrolled in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2023

719 Basic Skills
6,198 Continuing Education
2,498 Curriculum

13.6% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. State: 11.7%, 2023

Success of Cape Fear High School Graduates

82.6% of students who enroll persist to their second year. State: 83.8%, 2023

94.1% UNC | 72.4% NCCCS | 86.0% NCICU

61.1% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. State: 60.0%, 2023

35.8% UNC | 16.2% NCCCS | <5% NCICU

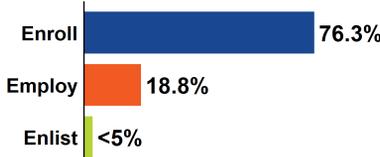
Top destinations of all college-goers, 2024

- 11,493 of all college-goers attended Cape Fear CC
- 3,231 of all college-goers attended Brunswick CC
- 2,867 of all college-goers attended Southeastern CC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

54.6% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 1,020 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. State: 55.0%

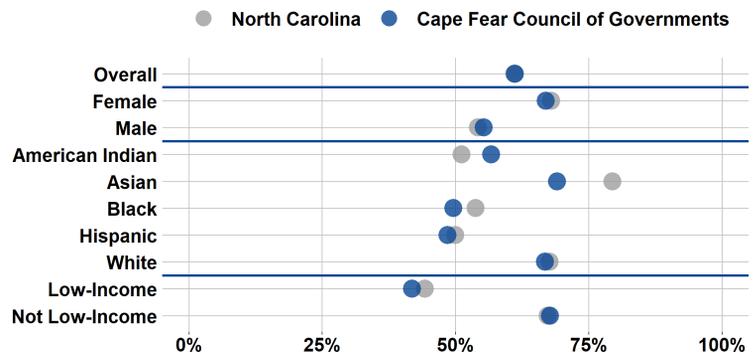
Post High School Graduation Intentions, 2023



87.9% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 338 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. State: 87.3% 2024

59.4% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in COG, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Cape Fear Council of Governments has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). State: 57.2% 2024

Cape Fear Traditional Public Schools students:

32.2% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 13,404 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. State: 29.8%

41.5% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 7,836 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. State: 36.5%

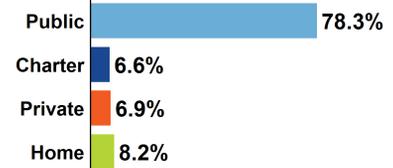
27.7% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 9,854 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. State: 25.7%

1.7% of students drop out of high school (328 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 5
Traditional Public School(s): 98
Charter School(s): 11
Private School(s): 38
Home School(s): 3,598

71,033 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 14,707 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 2,557 concentrations. 2,154 (14.6%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Health Science; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications.

2,369 (13.2%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

2,133 (49.2%) high school graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs. State: 36.0% (2024).

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

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