

# Chatham County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region  
Peer County Type: Rural - Metro

## Educational Attainment

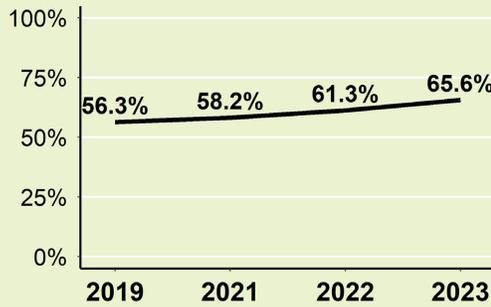
Chatham County residents ages 25-44, 2023

**Have Degree or Credential**  
10,482  
65.6%

**No Degree**  
5,490  
34.4%

**Residents Ages 25-44**  
15,972

## Educational Attainment Trend



Note: 2020 data not shown due to inconsistency

## Educational Level Breakdown, 2023



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

2030 Proposed Chatham County Attainment Goal: 13,830 (Stretch Goal: 13,929)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

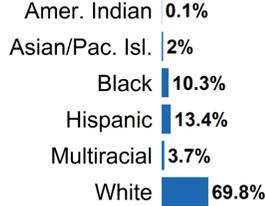
## Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 76,260  
2023 Estimate: 81,624  
Change: 5,364

## Growth Rate

7.0% County vs. 3.8% State

## Race/Ethnicity



**\$95,716**  
Median Household Income (2023)  
State: \$70,838

**80.4%**  
Home Owners (2023)  
State: 66.3%

**71.4%**  
Households with Broadband (2023)  
State: 77.1%

**16.3%**  
Child Poverty Rate (2023)  
State: 17.6%

**12.8%**  
Single Parent Households (2023)  
State: 17.0%

**10.7%**  
Foreign Born (2023)  
State: 9.2%

## Top Opportunities for Growth



### Opportunity Youth

11% of Chatham County youth ages 16-24 are not working and not in school, above the state average of 10%.

## In Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

**75.8%**

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

## Top Misalignments

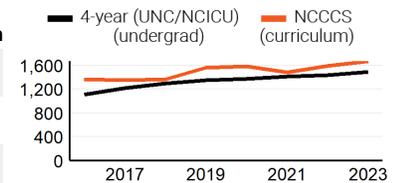
### Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- Health Science Jobs > Creds
- Business Management & Administration Jobs > Creds
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Jobs < Creds

## Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4.09%
Data Scientists	3.79%
Statisticians	3.71%

## Postsecondary Enrollment for Chatham County Residents



5 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

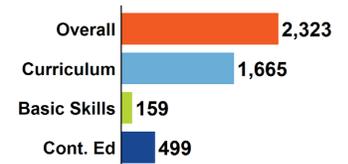
## UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

**19,047** graduates in 2020  
**64.9%** of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021  
**\$50,028** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

## Top 3 Employers in Chatham County

Employer	Employment Range
Chatham County Schools	1000+
County of Chatham	500-999
Carolina Meadows Inc	250-499

## Chatham County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



## Top 3 industries in Chatham County

Industry	Jobs   Percent
Health Care and Social Assistance	2,867   15.5%
Accommodation and Food Services	1,963   10.6%
Construction	1,893   10.3%

## Chatham County is served by:

- Capital Area Workforce Development Board
- Central Pines Council of Governments

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Postsecondary Completion

63% of Chatham County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the state goal of 80%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

4,998 certificate | 5,648 associate | 16,524 bachelor's

Adult Learners

Chatham County Residents Aged 25+ enrolled in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2023

- 76 Basic Skills
- 459 Continuing Education
- 256 Curriculum

4.4% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 16.0% | State: 11.7%, 2023



12.1% of Chatham County residents have student loan debt, 0.4% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Chatham County High School Graduates

86.7% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 80.1% | State: 83.8%, 2023

95.0% UNC | 75.3% NCCCS | 69.2% NCICU

62.9% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 57.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

39.3% UNC | 12.7% NCCCS | <5% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 1,735 of all college-goers attended Central Carolina CC
- 269 of all college-goers attended NC State
- 245 of all college-goers attended UNC Chapel Hill

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

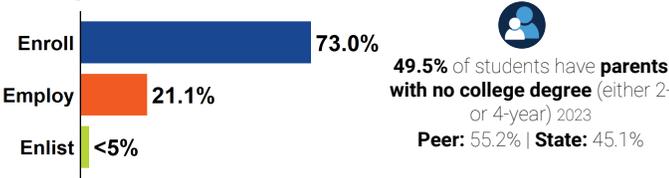


FAFSA Completion

65% of Chatham County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the state goal of 80%.

65.4% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 94 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 52.0% | State: 55.0%

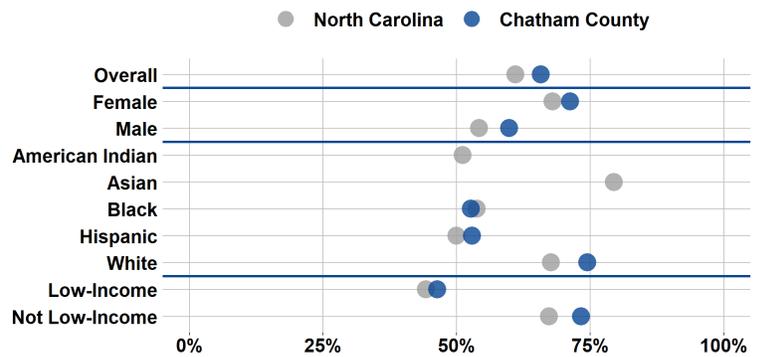
Post High School Graduation Intentions



89.7% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 42 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

64.1% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.0% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Chatham County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



School Counselors

Chatham County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 328:1, above the state average of 314:1.

73.5% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 5 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 61.7% | State: 57.2%

Note: Enrollment numbers only include students served by the NC Pre-K Program and may not represent all Pre-K offerings available.

Chatham County Traditional Public Schools students:

34.5% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 1,512 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 25.3% | State: 29.8%

39.7% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 1,816 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 32.3% | State: 36.5%

20.7% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 899 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.4% | State: 25.7%

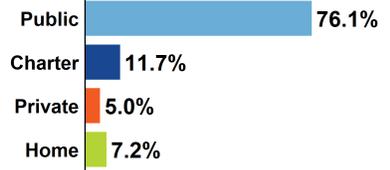
Chatham County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 328:1 compared to 352:1 in peer counties. 2024

1.0% of students drop out of high school (31 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1  
Traditional Public School(s): 21  
Charter School(s): 3  
Private School(s): 8  
Home School(s): 464

11,611 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 4,673 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 503 concentrations. 552 (11.8%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Health Science; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Human Services.

501 (16.9%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

457 (61.6%) 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/](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/)