

Craven County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Jacksonville-New Bern Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Metro

Educational Attainment

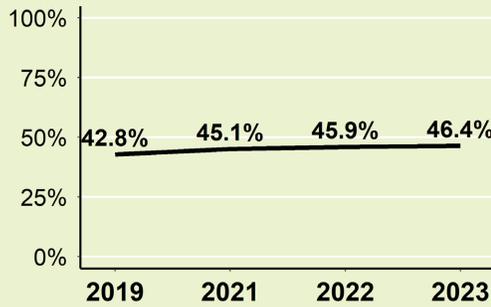
Craven County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
11,247
46.4%

No Degree
12,997
53.6%

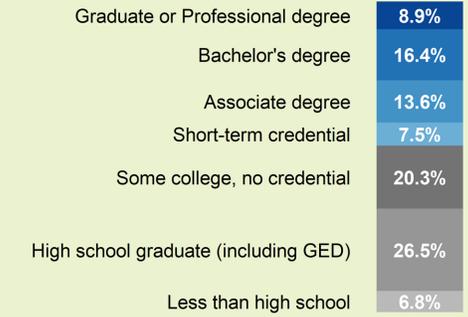
Residents Ages 25-44
24,244

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 Craven County Attainment Goal: 13,096 (Stretch Goal: 13,264)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 100,722
2023 Estimate: 102,391
Change: 1,669

Growth Rate

1.7% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.2%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 2.9%
Black 20.1%
Hispanic 7.4%
Multiracial 3.8%
White 64.7%



\$61,761
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



69.9%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



73.1%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



19.6%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



16.2%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



4.1%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

49% of Craven County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the state average of 58%.

In Jacksonville-New Bern Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

53.2%

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

Top Misalignments

Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- Education & Training Jobs < Creds
- Health Science Jobs > Creds
- Manufacturing Jobs < Creds



60 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

1,967 graduates in 2020
55.9% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$36,955 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

48.7% of adults (ages 25-44) in Craven County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 46.7% | State: 57.6%, 2023

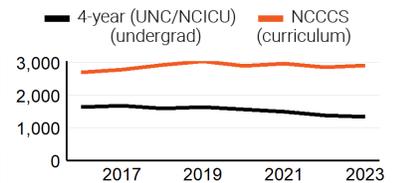
10.7% of youth (ages 16-24) in Craven County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 14.8% | State: 10.3%, 2023

82.4% of adults (ages 25-44) in Craven County participated in the labor force. Peer: 80.7% | State: 84.2%, 2023

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Jacksonville-New Bern Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Information Security Analysts	4.14%
Nurse Practitioners	3.85%
Web and Digital Interface Designers	3.32%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Craven County Residents



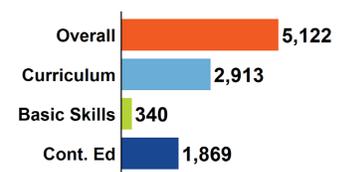
Top 3 Employers in Craven County

Employer	Employment Range
Defense Ex Army Navy & Air Force	1000+
Carolina East Health System	1000+
Craven County Board of Education	1000+

Top 3 industries in Craven County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Health Care and Social Assistance	7,235 17.5%
Public Administration	7,013 17.0%
Retail Trade	6,037 14.6%

Craven County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Craven County is served by:

- Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board
- Eastern Carolina Council of Governments

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Adult Learners

20% of Craven County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural - metro county average of 16%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

1,467 certificate | 1,580 associate | 37 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

163 Basic Skills
1,623 Continuing Education
839 Curriculum

20.3% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 16.0% | State: 11.7%, 2023



12.9% of Craven County residents have student loan debt, 1.2% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Craven County High School Graduates

81.0% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 80.1% | State: 83.8%, 2023

94.6% UNC | 70.5% NCCCS | 85.7% NCICU

58.3% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 57.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

30.1% UNC | 17.8% NCCCS | <5% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 3,925 of all college-goers attended Craven CC
- 452 of all college-goers attended East Carolina University
- 329 of all college-goers attended Carteret CC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

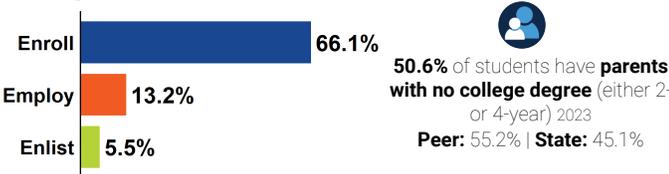


High School Graduation

81% of Craven County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less, below the rural - metro county average of 86%.

54.5% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 198 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 52.0% | State: 55.0%

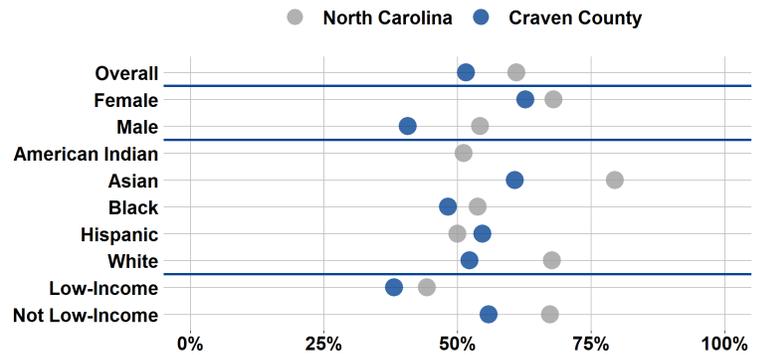
Post High School Graduation Intentions



80.8% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 147 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

49.9% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.0% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Craven County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



NC Pre-K Enrollment

45% of Craven County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - metro county average of 62%.

44.9% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 173 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.

Craven County Traditional Public Schools students:

30.2% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 2,365 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 25.3% | State: 29.8%

34.5% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 2,845 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 32.3% | State: 36.5%

21.7% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 1,387 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.4% | State: 25.7%

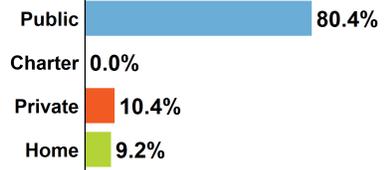
Craven County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 319:1 compared to 352:1 in peer counties. 2024

0.7% of students drop out of high school (30 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 26
Charter School(s): 0
Private School(s): 10
Home School(s): 828

15,157 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 2,395 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 589 concentrations. 611 (25.5%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Manufacturing; and Health Science.

187 (5.1%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

412 (47.5%) 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/