

Durham County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Urban

Educational Attainment

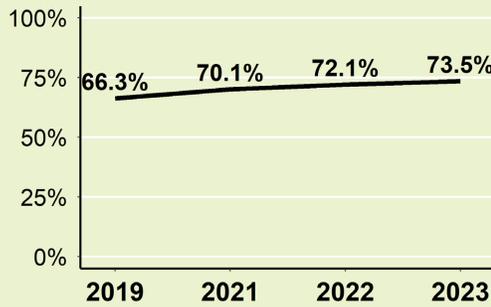
Durham County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
78,086
73.5%

No Degree
28,157
26.5%

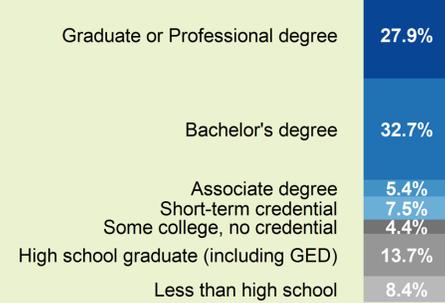
Residents Ages 25-44
106,243

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 Durham County Attainment Goal: 73,098 (Stretch Goal: 73,537)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 324,846
2023 Estimate: 336,892
Change: 12,046

Growth Rate

3.7% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.2%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 5.2%
Black 32.8%
Hispanic 15.3%
Multiracial 4.2%
White 41.9%



\$81,413
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



55.0%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



81.9%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



16.8%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



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



15.2%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

60% of Durham County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the urban county average of 62%.

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

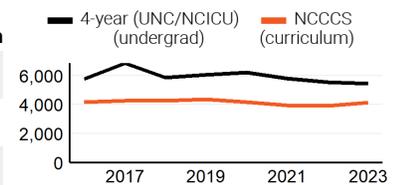
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- 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 Durham County Residents



547 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

59.9% of adults (ages 25-44) in Durham County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 61.6% | State: 57.6%, 2023

9.2% of youth (ages 16-24) in Durham County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 9.3% | State: 10.3%, 2023

86.5% of adults (ages 25-44) in Durham County participated in the labor force. Peer: 86.8% | State: 84.2%, 2023

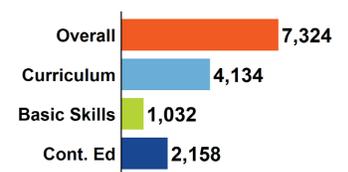
Top 3 Employers in Durham County

| Employer | Employment Range |
|--|------------------|
| Duke University | 1000+ |
| Fidelity Workplace Investing LLC | 1000+ |
| Durham Public Schools Board of Education | 1000+ |

Top 3 industries in Durham County

| Industry | Jobs Percent |
|--|----------------|
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 43,233 18.2% |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 34,815 14.6% |
| Educational Services | 31,585 13.3% |

Durham County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Durham County is served by:

- Durham Workforce Development Board
- Central Pines Council of Governments

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Postsecondary Completion

51% of Durham County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the urban county average of 63%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

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

Adult Learners

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

729 Basic Skills
1,791 Continuing Education
1,524 Curriculum

4.4% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 8.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



20.4% of Durham County residents have student loan debt. 1.4% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Durham County High School Graduates

83.4% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 86.9% | State: 83.8%, 2023

91.3% UNC | 67.7% NCCCS | 86.0% NCICU

51.2% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 62.7% | State: 60.0%, 2023

33.0% UNC | 6.2% NCCCS | 5.0% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 5,092 of all college-goers attended Durham TCC
- 1,183 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC
- 909 of all college-goers attended North Carolina Central University

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

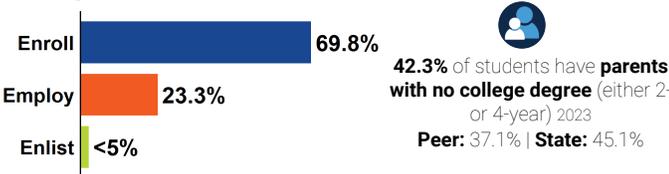


Postsecondary Enrollment

54% of Durham County seniors enroll in postsecondary education within 12 months of graduation, below the urban county average of 66%.

58.5% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 464 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 56.9% | State: 55.0%

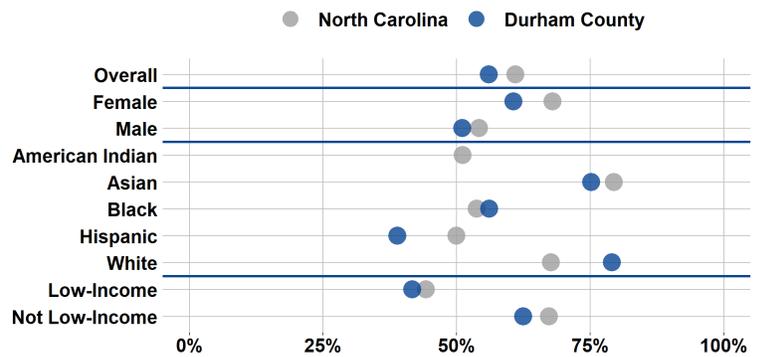
Post High School Graduation Intentions



83.3% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 335 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 87.9% | State: 87.3% 2024

54.3% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 66.5% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Durham County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



Chronic Absenteeism

37% of Durham County students are chronically absent from school, above the urban county average of 26%.

37.1% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 585 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 45.2% | 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.

Durham County Traditional Public Schools students:

28.1% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 6,043 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 33.8% | State: 29.8%

31.1% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 7,383 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 40.5% | State: 36.5%

37.2% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 8,680 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 25.5% | State: 25.7%

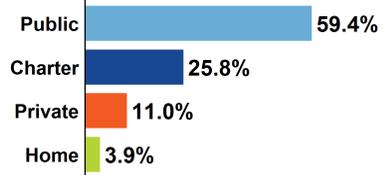
Durham County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 281:1 compared to 281:1 in peer counties. 2024

4.2% of students drop out of high school (471 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 54
Charter School(s): 16
Private School(s): 42
Home School(s): 1,154

51,864 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 1,669 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 837 concentrations. 362 (21.7%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications.

2,227 (22.3%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

453 (18.2%) 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/