

Henderson County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Asheville
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Suburban

Educational Attainment

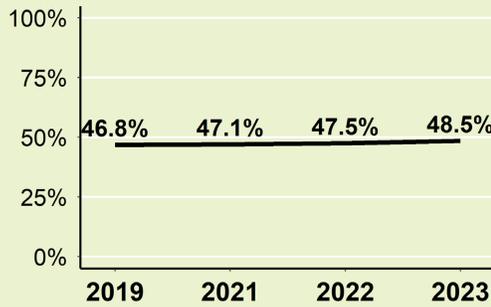
Henderson County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
12,436
48.5%

No Degree
13,222
51.5%

Residents Ages 25-44
25,658

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 Henderson County Attainment Goal: 17,717 (Stretch Goal: 17,909)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 116,310
2023 Estimate: 119,230
Change: 2,920

Growth Rate

2.5% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.3%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 1.4%
Black 2.9%
Hispanic 12.8%
Multiracial 2.3%
White 79.9%



\$63,765
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



74.2%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



72.6%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



19.5%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



13.9%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



7.7%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

45% of Henderson County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the suburban county average of 52%.

In Asheville Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

67.8%

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

Top Misalignments

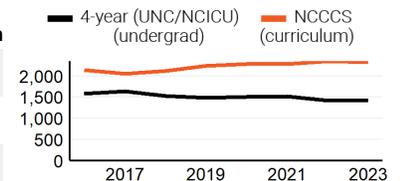
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- Health Science Jobs > Creds
- Education & Training Jobs < Creds
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics Jobs > Creds

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Asheville Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4.72%
Logisticians	3.51%
Physician Assistants	3.08%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Henderson County Residents



184 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

3,023 graduates in 2020
68.9% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$35,824 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

44.6% of adults (ages 25-44) in Henderson County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 51.8% | State: 57.6%, 2023

11.8% of youth (ages 16-24) in Henderson County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 11.2% | State: 10.3%, 2023

82.6% of adults (ages 25-44) in Henderson County participated in the labor force. Peer: 83.4% | State: 84.2%, 2023

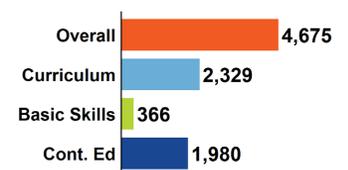
Top 3 Employers in Henderson County

Employer	Employment Range
Henderson County Board of Public Education	1000+
Henderson County Hospital Corp	1000+
Fletcher Hospital Inc	1000+

Top 3 industries in Henderson County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Health Care and Social Assistance	8,397 18.9%
Manufacturing	5,817 13.1%
Retail Trade	5,697 12.8%

Henderson County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Henderson County is served by:

- Mountain Area Workforce Development Board
- Land-of-Sky Regional Council

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Postsecondary Completion

56% of Henderson County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the suburban county average of 61%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

1,689 certificate | 1,451 associate | 1,326 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

234 Basic Skills
1,718 Continuing Education
642 Curriculum

16.7% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.1% | State: 11.7%, 2023



9.4% of Henderson County residents have student loan debt, 0.3% of debt holders had student loans in default, 2024

Success of Henderson County High School Graduates

79.2% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 83.9% | State: 83.8%, 2023

93.0% UNC | 66.7% NCCCS | 71.7% NCICU

55.7% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 61.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

26.9% UNC | 14.7% NCCCS | 5.6% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 3,608 of all college-goers attended Blue Ridge CC
- 754 of all college-goers attended Asheville-Buncombe TCC
- 294 of all college-goers attended Western Carolina University

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

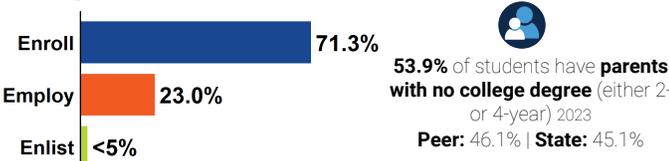


FAFSA Completion

48% of Henderson County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the suburban county average of 55%.

47.5% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 306 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 55.0% | State: 55.0%

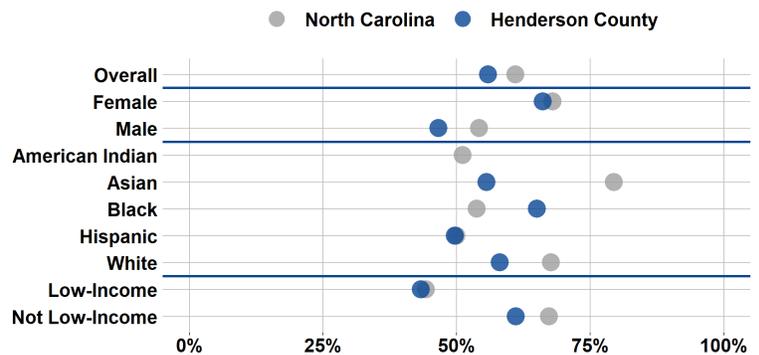
Post High School Graduation Intentions



93.1% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 20 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 88.5% | State: 87.3% 2024

54.2% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 58.8% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Henderson 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

32% of Henderson County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 46%.

31.7% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 226 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 46.5% | 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.

Henderson County Traditional Public Schools students:

32.2% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 2,351 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 30.8% | State: 29.8%

41.5% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 2,562 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 37.8% | State: 36.5%

17.5% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 858 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 23.7% | State: 25.7%

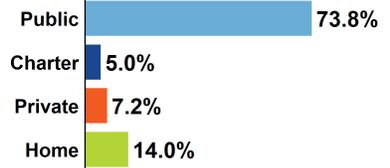
Henderson County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 321:1 compared to 328:1 in peer counties, 2024

1.7% of students drop out of high school (76 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide, 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 23
Charter School(s): 2
Private School(s): 16
Home School(s): 1,482

16,993 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 2,105 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 613 concentrations. 766 (36.4%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Architecture and Construction; Manufacturing; and Health Science.

516 (12.7%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

395 (39.1%) 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/