

Macon County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro

Educational Attainment

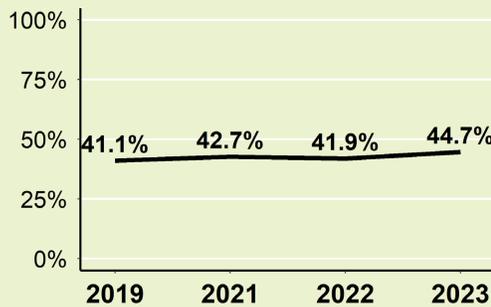
Macon County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
3,302
44.7%

No Degree
4,084
55.3%

Residents Ages 25-44
7,386

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 Macon County Attainment Goal: 4,991 (Stretch Goal: 5,055)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 37,019
2023 Estimate: 38,412
Change: 1,393

Growth Rate

3.8% vs. 3.8%
County State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.2%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 0.8%
Black 1.2%
Hispanic 9.7%
Multiracial 2.2%
White 85.7%

\$58,765
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838

76.3%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%

58.4%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%

18.9%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%

12.3%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%

5.7%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

42% of Macon County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the state average of 58%.

In Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

75.6%

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

Top Misalignments

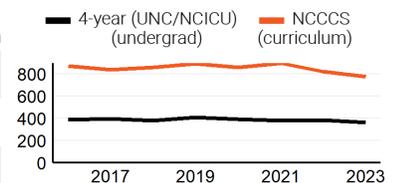
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

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

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	3.67%
Logisticians	3.54%
Medical and Health Services Managers	2.83%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Macon County Residents



1 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

3,111 graduates in 2020
69.4% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$41,526 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

41.6% of adults (ages 25-44) in Macon County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 40.5% | State: 57.6%, 2023

4.8% of youth (ages 16-24) in Macon County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 13.8% | State: 10.3%, 2023

86.4% of adults (ages 25-44) in Macon County participated in the labor force. Peer: 78.3% | State: 84.2%, 2023

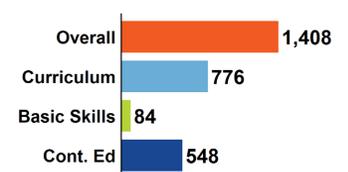
Top 3 Employers in Macon County

Employer	Employment Range
Macon County	500-999
Drake Software LLC	250-499
Ingles Markets Inc	250-499

Top 3 industries in Macon County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Retail Trade	2,218 17.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	2,073 16.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,403 11.3%

Macon County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Macon County is served by:

- Southwestern Workforce Development Board
- Southwestern Commission

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Adult Learners

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

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

710 certificate | 819 associate | 2,609 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

26 Basic Skills
418 Continuing Education
151 Curriculum

20.5% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



8.9% of Macon County residents have student loan debt, 0.9% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Macon County High School Graduates

76.9% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 79.6% | State: 83.8%, 2023

91.5% UNC | 62.7% NCCCS | NA NCICU

58.1% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 55.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

32.3% UNC | 23.1% NCCCS | NA NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 1,200 of all college-goers attended Southwestern CC
- 228 of all college-goers attended Western Carolina University
- 43 of all college-goers attended Tri-County CC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

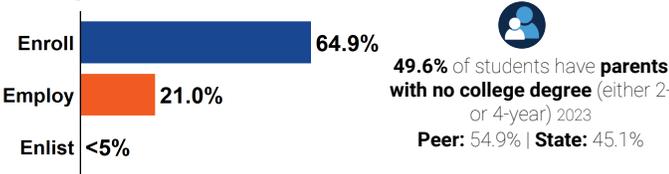


FAFSA Completion

44% of Macon County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 54%.

43.6% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 110 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 54.0% | State: 55.0%

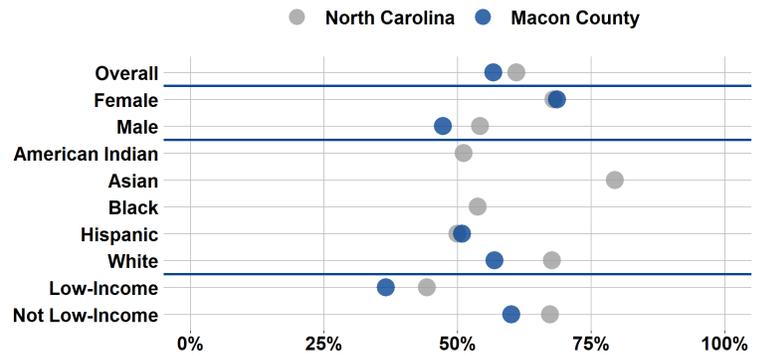
Post High School Graduation Intentions



90.6% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 15 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

55.0% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.6% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Macon 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

58% of Macon County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 71%.

57.9% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 34 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 71.0% | 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.

Macon County Traditional Public Schools students:

26.6% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 923 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 24.5% | State: 29.8%

28.1% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 1,153 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 30.3% | State: 36.5%

28.9% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 823 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.7% | State: 25.7%

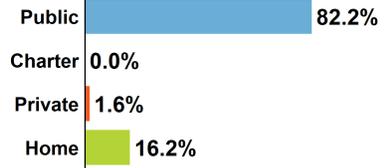
Macon County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 481:1 compared to 332:1 in peer counties. 2024

0.1% of students drop out of high school (1 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 12
Charter School(s): 0
Private School(s): 2
Home School(s): 550

5,302 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 846 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 209 concentrations. 192 (22.7%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Manufacturing.

80 (6.3%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

204 (59.3%) 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/