

# North Carolina



myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles  
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

## Educational Attainment

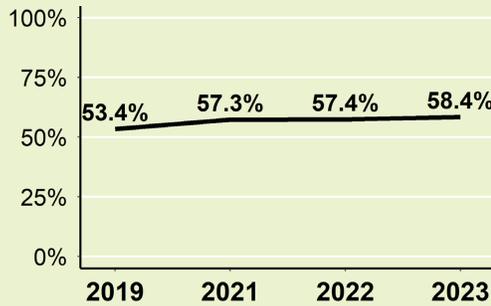
North Carolina residents ages 25-44, 2023

**Have Degree or Credential**  
1,664,892  
58.4%

**No Degree**  
1,185,764  
41.6%

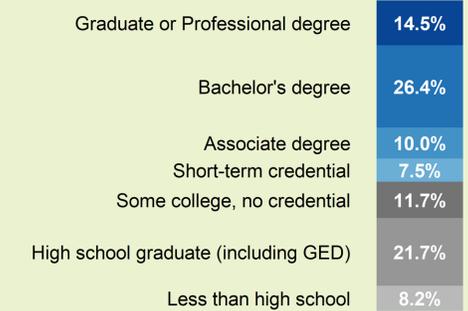
**Residents Ages 25-44**  
2,850,656

## 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

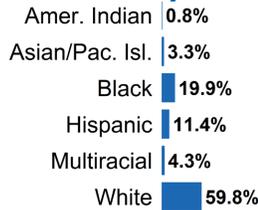
## Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 10,439,459  
2023 Estimate: 10,835,491  
Change: 396,032

## Growth Rate

3.8%

## Race/Ethnicity



**\$70,838**  
Median Household Income (2023)



**66.3%**  
Home Owners (2023)



**77.1%**  
Households with Broadband (2023)



**17.6%**  
Child Poverty Rate (2023)



**17.0%**  
Single Parent Households (2023)



**9.2%**  
Foreign Born (2023)

## Top Opportunities for Growth



### Family Sustaining Wage

Increasing the number of adults ages 25-44 earning a family sustaining wage is the biggest labor market alignment opportunity area for 63 counties.

### In North Carolina:

**81.1%**

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

### Top Misalignments

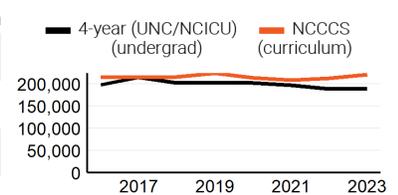
#### Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

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

### Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in North Carolina

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4.52%
Statisticians	3.71%
Data Scientists	3.57%

### Postsecondary Enrollment for North Carolina Residents



**16,043** Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

### UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

**84,346** graduates in 2020  
**69.0%** of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021  
**\$43,833** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

**57.6%** of adults (ages 25-44) in North Carolina earned a family sustaining wage. 2023

**10.3%** of youth (ages 16-24) in North Carolina were Opportunity Youth. 2023

**84.2%** of adults (ages 25-44) in North Carolina participated in the labor force. 2023

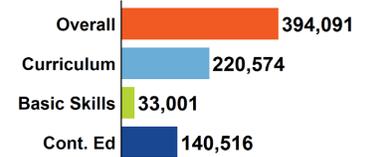
### Top 3 Employers in North Carolina

Employer	Employment Range
Wal-Mart Associates Inc	1000+
Duke University	1000+
Charlotte Mecklenburg Hospital	1000+

### Top 3 industries in North Carolina

Industry	Jobs   Percent
Health Care and Social Assistance	689,950   14.0%
Retail Trade	530,545   10.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	467,992   9.5%

### North Carolina Residents Enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



### North Carolina is served by:

- 20 Workforce Development Boards (WDBs)
- 16 Councils of Governments (COGs)

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Postsecondary Completion

Increasing the number of high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education and earn a degree or credential within 6 years is the biggest postsecondary completion opportunity area for 42 counties.

Degree Credentials Awarded in North Carolina, 2023

27,963 certificate | 32,193 associate | 57,946 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

20,500 Basic Skills

123,587 Continuing Education

56,724 Curriculum

11.7% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. 2023



15.5% of residents have student loan debt. 1.3% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of North Carolina High School Graduates

83.8% of students who enroll persist to their second year. 2023

93.1% UNC | 71.5% NCCCS | 84.3% NCICU

60.0% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. 2023

34.6% UNC | 12.4% NCCCS | 5.7% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 35,238 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC
- 27,543 of all college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC
- 23,926 of all college-goers attended NC State

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

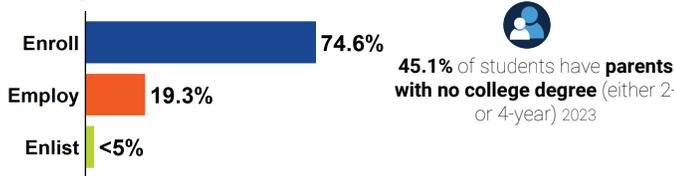


FAFSA Completion

Increasing the number of high school seniors completing the FAFSA is the biggest college and career access opportunity area for 42 counties.

55.0% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 24,213 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%.

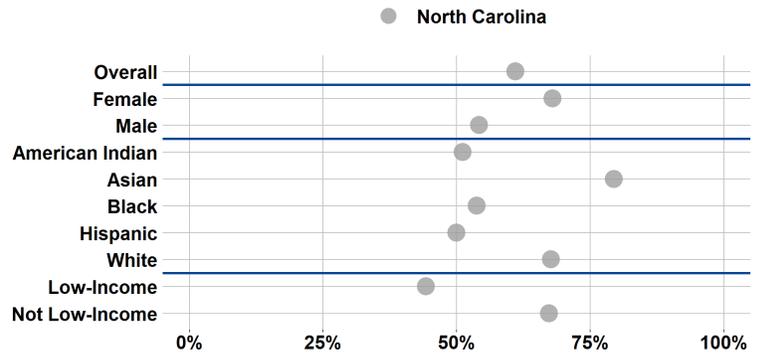
Post High School Graduation Intentions



87.3% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 8,882 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2024

59.3% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in North Carolina, 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

Increasing the number of 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K is the biggest academic readiness opportunity area for 29 counties.

57.2% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 8,686 more needed to meet state goal of 75%.

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

North Carolina Traditional Public Schools students:

29.8% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 266,349 more needed to meet state goal of 73%.

36.5% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 305,280 more needed to meet state goal of 86%.

25.7% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 212,145 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%.



North Carolina has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 315:1. 2024

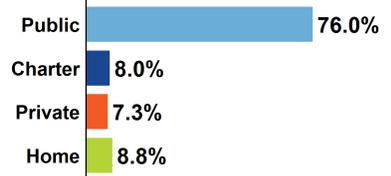


2.1% of students drop out of high school (9,531 total students). 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 115  
 Traditional Public School(s): 2,483  
 Charter School(s): 210  
 Private School(s): 881  
 Home School(s): 96,529

1,795,954 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 325,307 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 67,142 concentrations. 65,583 (20.2%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Health Science; Human Services; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.



72,510 (16.8%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam (2023).



37,515 (36.0%) high school graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (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/)