

# Wake County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



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

## Educational Attainment

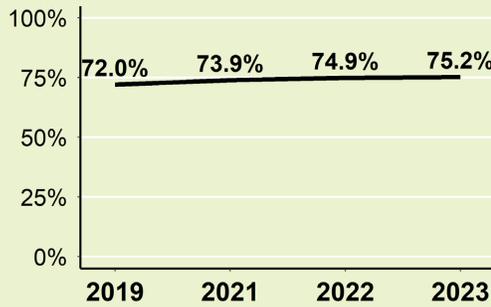
Wake County residents ages 25-44, 2023

**Have Degree or Credential**  
257,074  
75.2%

**No Degree**  
84,596  
24.8%

**Residents Ages 25-44**  
341,670

## 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 Wake County Attainment Goal: 300,739 (Stretch Goal: 301,916)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

## Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 1,129,352  
2023 Estimate: 1,190,275  
Change: 60,923

## Growth Rate

5.4% County vs. 3.8% State

## Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.2%  
Asian/Pac. Isl. 8.1%  
Black 18.9%  
Hispanic 11.4%  
Multiracial 3.8%  
White 57%



\$103,084  
Median Household Income (2023)  
State: \$70,838



64.4%  
Home Owners (2023)  
State: 66.3%



85.6%  
Households with Broadband (2023)  
State: 77.1%



9.0%  
Child Poverty Rate (2023)  
State: 17.6%



14.1%  
Single Parent Households (2023)  
State: 17.0%



14.5%  
Foreign Born (2023)  
State: 9.2%

## Top Opportunities for Growth



### Met All Goals

Met all labor market alignment goals

## 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

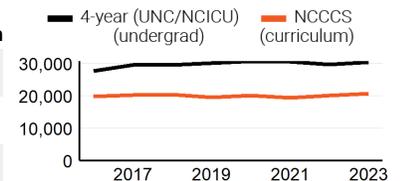
### Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- 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 Wake County Residents



1,827 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

69.5% of adults (ages 25-44) in Wake County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 61.6% | State: 57.6%, 2023

8.0% of youth (ages 16-24) in Wake County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 9.3% | State: 10.3%, 2023

87.0% of adults (ages 25-44) in Wake County participated in the labor force. Peer: 86.8% | State: 84.2%, 2023

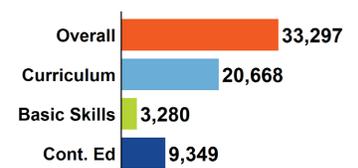
## Top 3 Employers in Wake County

Employer	Employment Range
Wake County Public Schools	1000+
NC State University at Raleigh	1000+
WakeMed Health & Hospitals	1000+

## Top 3 industries in Wake County

Industry	Jobs   Percent
Health Care and Social Assistance	77,044   11.8%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	76,511   11.7%
Retail Trade	64,488   9.9%

## Wake County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



## Wake County is served by:

- Capital Area Workforce Development Board
- Central Pines Council of Governments

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Postsecondary Completion

69% of Wake County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the state goal of 80%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

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

Adult Learners

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

2,422 Basic Skills  
7,616 Continuing Education  
5,332 Curriculum

6.7% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 8.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



18.6% of Wake County residents have student loan debt, 1.2% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Wake County High School Graduates

90.1% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 86.9% | State: 83.8%, 2023

95.0% UNC | 78.6% NCCCS | 88.7% NCICU

69.0% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 62.7% | State: 60.0%, 2023

46.5% UNC | 8.1% NCCCS | 5.0% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 26,359 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC
- 7,086 of all college-goers attended NC State
- 3,702 of all college-goers attended UNC Chapel Hill

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

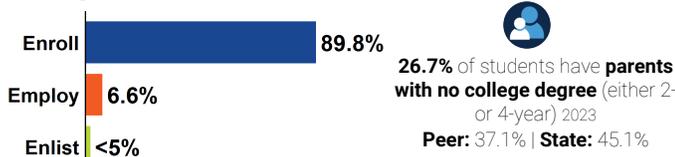


FAFSA Completion

57% of Wake County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the state goal of 80%.

57.3% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 2,840 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 56.9% | State: 55.0%

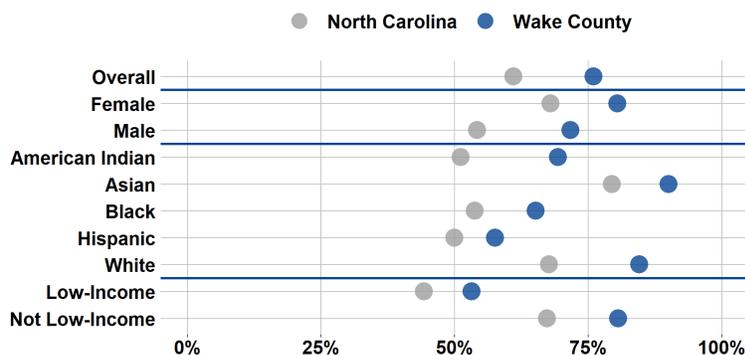
Post High School Graduation Intentions



91.3% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 498 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 87.9% | State: 87.3% 2024

74.3% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 66.5% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Wake County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



School Counselors

Wake County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 314:1, above the urban county average of 281:1.

42.0% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 1,156 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.

Wake County Traditional Public Schools students:

42.7% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 21,808 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 33.8% | State: 29.8%

49.0% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 26,616 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 40.5% | State: 36.5%

20.6% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 16,095 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 25.5% | State: 25.7%



Wake County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 314:1 compared to 281:1 in peer counties. 2024

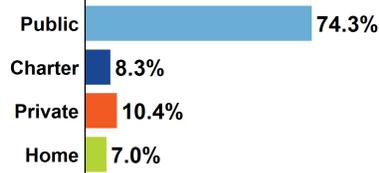


1.3% of students drop out of high school (721 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1  
Traditional Public School(s): 197  
Charter School(s): 26  
Private School(s): 91  
Home School(s): 9,412

215,004 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 28,185 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 7,323 concentrations. 10,102 (35.8%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Human Services; and Information Technology.



16,806 (32.6%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).



2,734 (21.6%) 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/](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/)