

# Gaston County

## Workforce Development Board (WDB)

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Counties in Workforce Development Board:  
Gaston County

### Educational Attainment

Gaston County WDB residents ages 25-44, 2023

**Have Degree or Credential**  
30,087  
49.7%

**No Degree**  
30,448  
50.3%

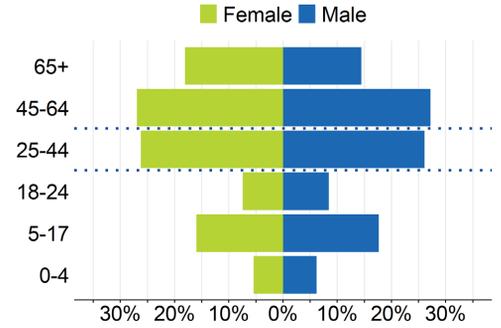
**Residents Ages 25-44**  
60,535

### Educational Level Breakdown, 2023

Graduate or Professional degree	8.9%
Bachelor's degree	21.9%
Associate degree	11.4%
Short-term credential	7.5%
Some college, no credential	15.6%
High school graduate (including GED)	26.5%
Less than high school	8.1%

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

### Age Structure, 2023



2030 Proposed Gaston County Attainment Goal: 35,691

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

### Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 227,943  
2023 Estimate: 237,242  
Change: 9,299

### Growth Rate

4.1% vs. 3.8%  
County State

### Race/Ethnicity, 2023

Amer. Indian	0.2%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	1.6%
Black	17.3%
Hispanic	9.3%
Multiracial	3.4%
White	67.8%

**\$67,076**  
Median Household Income (2023)  
State: \$70,838

**65.8%**  
Home Owners (2023)  
State: 66.3%

**73.4%**  
Households with Broadband (2023)  
State: 77.1%

**16.3%**  
Child Poverty Rate (2023)  
State: 17.6%

**20.3%**  
Single Parent Households (2023)  
State: 17.0%

**5.7%**  
Foreign Born (2023)  
State: 9.2%

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

### In Gaston County:

**669** Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

### UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

**981** graduates in 2020  
**81.0%** of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021  
**\$40,337** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

**53.1%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Gaston County earned a **family sustaining wage**. State: 57.6%, 2023

**14.4%** of youth (ages 16-24) in Gaston County were **Opportunity Youth**. State: 10.3%, 2023

**84.9%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Gaston County **participated in the labor force**. State: 84.2%, 2023

### Gaston County Labor Force Snapshot, 2024 Q2

Total Jobs	<b>78,978</b>	Business Establishments	<b>5,658</b>
Employed	<b>113,933</b>	Unemployed	<b>4,754</b>
Avg. Weekly Wage	<b>\$1,016</b>		

### Top Industries in Gaston County, 2024 Q2

Industry Name	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Manufacturing	14,320	\$1,246
Health Care and Social Assistance	13,609	\$1,166
Retail Trade	10,335	\$681
Accommodation and Food Services	8,260	\$426
Educational Services	5,559	\$896

### Top Job Sectors in Gaston County, 2024 Q2

Job Sector	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Private	68,850	\$1,003
Local Government	7,852	\$1,119
Federal Government	1,157	\$1,153
State Government	1,118	\$964

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

### Degree Credentials Awarded in Gaston County, 2023

1,678 certificate | 740 associate | 282 bachelor's

### Adult Learners

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

313 Basic Skills  
2,470 Continuing Education  
1,103 Curriculum

15.6% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. State: 11.7%, 2023

### Success of Gaston County High School Graduates

80.6% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

State: 83.8%, 2023

91.9% UNC | 69.1% NCCCS | 82.0% NCICU

57.8% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. State: 60.0%, 2023

29.5% UNC | 15.5% NCCCS | 6.1% NCICU

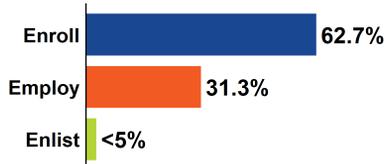
### Top destinations of all college-goers, 2024

- 6,006 of all college-goers attended Gaston College
- 877 of all college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC
- 727 of all college-goers attended UNC Charlotte

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

47.4% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 668 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. State: 55.0%

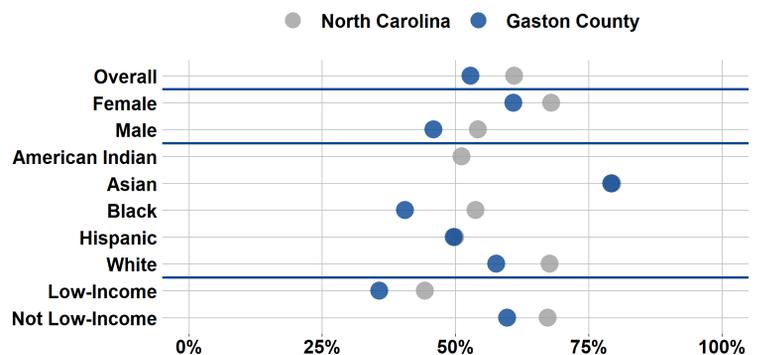
### Post High School Graduation Intentions, 2023



86.7% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 209 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. State: 87.3% 2024

51.1% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. State: 59.3% 2023

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in WDB, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

60.5% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 177 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. State: 57.2%

### Gaston County Traditional Public Schools students:

24.5% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 8,431 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. State: 29.8%

31.3% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 5,712 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. State: 36.5%

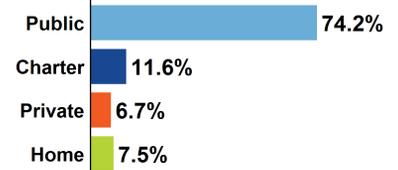
23.6% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 4,036 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. State: 25.7%

3.0% of students drop out of high school (300 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

### School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1  
Traditional Public School(s): 56  
Charter School(s): 4  
Private School(s): 13  
Home School(s): 1,792

40,050 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



### Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 7,720 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 1,793 concentrations. 3,196 (41.4%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Health Science; and Human Services.

958 (10.5%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

782 (35.1%) 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/](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/)