Clay County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Clay County Attainment Goal: 1,376 (Stretch Goal: 1,400)
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 11,085
2022 Estimate: 11,614
Change: 529

Growth Rate
4.8% vs. 2.5%

Clay County
State

$57,698
$67,516

80% Home Owners (2022)
67%

6.3% Child Poverty Rate (2022)
17.2%

5.3% Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
10.9%

61% Households with Broadband (2022)
77%

4.0% Unemployment Rate (2022)
3.7%

Median Household Income
Child Poverty Rate
Opportunity Youth Rate
Households with Broadband
Unemployment Rate

Educational Attainment
Clay County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
832
45.6%

Have Degree or Credential
993
54.4%

Less than high school
21%

High school graduate (including GED)
15%

Some college, no credential
8%

Short-term credential
22%

Associate degree
18%

Bachelor's degree
7%

Graduate or professional degree

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

Top Opportunities for Growth
These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Clay County to improve future attainment outcomes.

FAFSA Completion
60% of Clay County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 61%.

Chronic Absenteeism
30% of Clay County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural - non-metro county average of 29%.

Postsecondary Completion
52% of Clay County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the state average of 59%.

Promising Attainment Practices
The new Promising Attainment Practices Database is a curated, searchable, and filterable collection of about 250 county, region, and state-level initiatives and programs that directly address various components of the state’s attainment challenge. The Database allows local and regional initiative leaders and other stakeholders to identify groups across the state who are developing or operating initiatives designed to boost attainment.

Follow link to discover how Clay County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Clay

In Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
80.1%
of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

15
Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC System College Enrollment
Curriculum

NC Community College Enrollment
Curriculum

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

Job Title
Nurse Practitioners
Logisticians
Medical and Health Services Managers

Annual Growth
4%
4%
3%

Top 3 Employers in Clay County

Employer
Clay County Board Of Education
County Of Clay
Ingles Markets Inc

Employment Range
100-249
100-249
100-249

Clay County is served by:
Southwestern Workforce Development Board
Southwestern Commission

80% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

57% of adults (ages 25-44) in Clay County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

100-249
100-249
100-249

In Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
80.1%
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15
Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
3,111 graduates in 2020
69% 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)

57% of adults (ages 25-44) in Clay County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Clay County is served by:
Southwestern Workforce Development Board
Southwestern Commission
Adult Learners
Waynesville-Franklin Sub-Prosperity Zone post-secondary enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 148 Basic Skills
- 3,797 Continuing Education
- 1,037 Curriculum

7% of Clay County residents have student loan debt. 0% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of Clay County High School Graduates

- 82% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 52% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 333 of all college-goers attended Tri-County CC
- 14 of all college-goers attended Southwestern CC
- 9 of all college-goers attended Western Carolina University

How students in Clay County traditional schools are doing:

- 60% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 15 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80% 2023
- 68% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022
- 58% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties. 2022

49% of Clay County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 55% in peer counties.

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Certificate</th>
<th>Associate</th>
<th>Bachelor’s</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>711</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>2,570</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Postsecondary assets in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone sub-region

- Public, 4-year or above
  - Western Carolina University
- Public, 2-year
  - Haywood Community College, Southwestern Community College, Tri-County Community College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Clay County, 2022

- Overall
- Female
- Male
- American Indian
- Asian
- Black
- Hispanic
- White
- Low-Income
- Not Low-Income

School Choice
1,413 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Clay County in the 2022-23 school year.

Access to Postsecondary Credits
Students in Clay County completed 533 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (84 (16%) were industry-valued credentials) and 76 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Business Management & Administration; and Human Services.

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:
dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/