Davidson County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Davidson County Attainment Goal: 27,490 (58%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 162,878
2020 Census: 168,930
Change: 6,052

Growth Rate
3.7% vs. 9.5%

$56,067 Median Household Income (2020)
24.1% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
87% Households with Broadband (2020)
72% Home Owners (2020)
77% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
4.5% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Updated: Dec 08 2022

Winston-Salem
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Suburban
Local Education Agencies: 3
Charter Schools: 1

Educational Attainment
Davidson County residents ages 25-44, 2020

No Degree
58.0%
22,636

Have Degree or Credential
42.0%
16,377

Less than high school
13%
High school graduate (including GED)
27%
Some college, no credential
18%
Associate degree
8%
Bachelor’s degree
13%
Graduate or professional degree
16%
6%

Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
34% of Davidson County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 45%.

Earning College Credit in High School
29% of Davidson County graduates participated in the Career & College Promise programs, below the suburban county average of 33%. Also, 13% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 15%.

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-4.2% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
Postsecondary Enrollment
-0.7% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-5.1% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
Postsecondary Intentions
2.1% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

Data Disruptions
• College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
• College-and-Career-Ready in Math
• Chronic Absenteeism

School Choice
28,058 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Davidson County in the 2021-22 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Davidson County, 2021

Career and College Preparation
929 high school students took at least one AP course (13%) versus 15% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Davidson County completed 1,390 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Human Services; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

How students in Davidson County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Davidson County needs:

• 392 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 34%). 2022
• 4,902 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 26%). 2022
• 5,693 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 31%). 2022
• 202 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 85%). 2021
• 1,153 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 16%). 2021

Davidson County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 319:1 versus 336:1 in peer counties. 2021

• 56% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022. (392 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%).
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/

• 80% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 75% in peer counties. 2021

• 55% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

57% of Davidson County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 49% in peer counties.

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
Success of Davidson County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020:
- 42% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 14% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 44% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 95% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 79% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 77% in peer counties. 2021
- 58% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Davidson County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021:
- 513 Basic Skills
- 1,439 Continuing Education
- 3,240 Curriculum

13% of Davidson County residents have student loan debt; 13% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

- 83.2% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

- 1,224 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 4,918 graduates in 2020
- 78% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $43,544 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 3,196 in Basic Services
- 1,314 in Career Services
- 144 in Education Services

15.5% of young adults ages 16-24 in Davidson County were not working and not in school versus 11.2% in peer counties. 2019

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 Davidson County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Davidson

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