Forsyth County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Forsyth County Attainment Goal: 70,763 (63%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 350,670
2020 Census: 382,590
Change: 31,920

Growth Rate
9.1% vs. 9.5% State

Median Household Income (2020)
$56,158

Child Poverty Rate (2020)
24.1%

Households with Broadband (2020)
87%

Home Owners (2020)
62%

Voter Registration Rate (2021)
83%

Unemployment Rate (2021)
4.9%

Winston-Salem
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Urban
Local Education Agencies: 1
Charter Schools: 9

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Educational Attainment
Forsyth County residents ages 25-44, 2020

No Degree
46.6%
44,422

Have Degree or Credential
53.4%
50,841

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

Chronic Absenteeism
36% of Forsyth County students are chronically absent from school, above the urban county average of 26%.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
30% of Forsyth County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the urban county average of 40%.

Earning College Credit in High School
8% of Forsyth County graduates participated in the Career & College Promise programs, below the urban county average of 17%. Also, 19% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 25%.

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

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-3.2% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-0.0% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-1.5% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-4.7% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

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

• 1,074 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 30%). 2022
• 11,735 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 24%). 2022
• 14,262 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 27%). 2022
• 424 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 85%). 2021
• 12,809 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 36%). 2021

Forsyth County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 335:1 versus 294:1 in peer counties. 2021

School Choice
65,647 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Forsyth County in the 2021-22 school year.
Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

Career and College Preparation
2,902 high school students took at least one AP course (19%) versus 25% in peer counties (2021).

324 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (8%) versus 17% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Forsyth County completed 1,639 Career and Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics; and Human Services.

Data Disruptions
• College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
• College-and-Career-Ready in Math
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ncdemography.org

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Forsyth County, 2021
Forsyth County North Carolina

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

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 49% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 16% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 34% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 89% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 80% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 81% in peer counties. 2021
- 60% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 62% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Forsyth County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 688 Basic Skills
- 2,863 Continuing Education
- 6,486 Curriculum

18% of Forsyth County residents have student loan debt; 9% 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.

Top areas of misalignment:
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s)
- Health Science (below bachelor’s and bachelor’s)
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)

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:

- 12,639 in Basic Services
- 5,245 in Career Services
- 785 in Education Services

11.8% of young adults ages 16-24 in Forsyth County were not working and not in school versus 9.2% in peer counties. 2019

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

Curriculum

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

Continuing Education

Number of Forsyth County residents employed, January 2020 to March 2022

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 Forsyth County has been meeting local needs:

https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Forsyth

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:

dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/