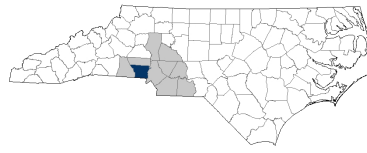


Gaston County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles



Charlotte
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Suburban
Local Education Agencies: 1 (2023)
Charter Schools: 4 (2023)

2030 Proposed Gaston County Attainment Goal: 35,691 (Stretch Goal: 36,140)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 227,942
2022 Estimate: 234,215
Change: 6,273

Growth Rate

2.8% County vs. 2.5% State



\$65,430
Median Household Income (2022)
State: \$67,516



67%
Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%



15.6%
Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%



15.3%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
State: 12.1%



72%
Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%



3.7%
Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

Educational Attainment

Gaston County residents ages 25-44, 2022

Less than high school High school graduate (including GED) Some college, no credential Short-term credential Associate degree Bachelor's degree Graduate or professional degree



No Degree
29,858
50.4%



Have Degree or Credential
29,411
49.6%



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

Top Opportunities for Growth

These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Gaston County to improve future attainment outcomes.



FAFSA Completion

55% of Gaston County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the suburban county average of 62%.



Math Performance

31% of Gaston County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the suburban county average of 36%.



Reading Performance

26% of Gaston County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the suburban county average of 31%.

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 Gaston County has been meeting local needs:

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

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

80.4%

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

Top areas of misalignment:

Business Management & Administration bachelor's
Finance bachelor's
Information Technology bachelor's



4,230 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

12,495 graduates in 2020

74% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021

\$45,387 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)



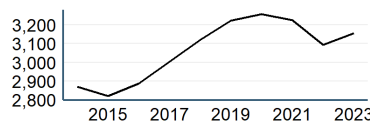
53% of adults (ages 25-44) in Gaston County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Gaston County is served by:

Gaston County Workforce Development Board
Centralina Regional Council

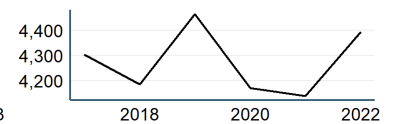
UNC System College Enrollment

Curriculum



NC Community College Enrollment

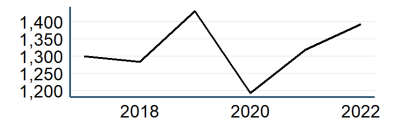
Curriculum



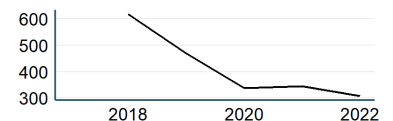
Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	5%
Data Scientists	4%
Logisticians	4%

First-time Curriculum Enrollments



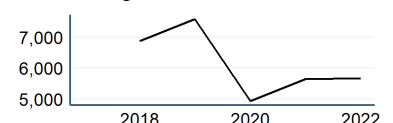
Basic Skills



Top 3 Employers in Gaston County

Employer	Employment Range
Gaston County Schools	1000+
Caromont Health (A Corp)	1000+
Freightliner Corp	1000+

Continuing Education



Adult Learners

Gaston County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

308 Basic Skills
5,678 Continuing Education
4,394 Curriculum

14% of Gaston County residents have **student loan debt**; 8% of debt holders had **student loans in default**. 2022

Success of Gaston County High School Graduates

- 81% of students who enroll **persist to their second year** versus 82% in peer counties. 2022
- 54% of students who enroll **earn a degree or certificate** within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 5,531 of all college-goers attended **Gaston College**
- 822 of all college-goers attended **Central Piedmont CC**
- 584 of all college-goers attended **Cleveland CC**

55% of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 488 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023

66% of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution versus 73% in peer counties. 2022

49% of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months versus 57% in peer counties. 2022

53% of Gaston County students have **parents with no college degree** (either 2- or 4-year) versus 48% in peer counties.

How students in Gaston County traditional schools are doing:

69% of eligible 4-year-olds **enrolled in NC Pre-K program**, compared to 53% statewide; 75 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023

26% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**, compared to 30% statewide; 8,235 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023

31% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**, compared to 35% statewide; 7,661 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023

85% of 9th graders **graduate within four years**, compared to 87% statewide; 237 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023

32% of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to 32% statewide; 6,672 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Gaston County has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of 274:1 versus 327:1 in peer counties. 2022

3% of students **drop out of high school** (322 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

6,906 certificate | 6,066 associate | 9,125 bachelor's

Postsecondary assets in Charlotte Prosperity Zone sub-region

Public, 4-year or above

Carolinas College of Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

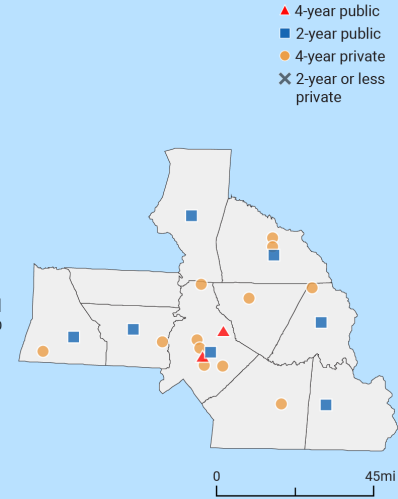
Public, 2-year

Central Piedmont Community College, Cleveland Community College, Gaston College, Mitchell Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, South Piedmont Community College, Stanly Community College

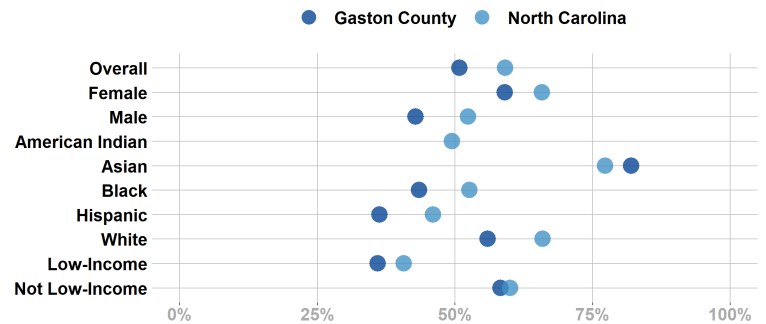
Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above

Belmont Abbey College, Cabarrus College of Health Sciences, Catawba College, Charlotte Christian College and Theological Seminary, Davidson College, Gardner-Webb University, Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte, Johnson C Smith University, Livingstone College, Pfeiffer University, Queens University of Charlotte, Wingate University

Private not-for-profit, 2-year



Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Gaston County, 2022

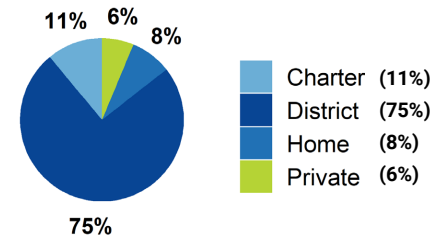


Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

School Choice

39,695 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Gaston County in the 2022-23 school year.

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



Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Gaston County completed **8,195 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials** (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and **1,695 concentrations** in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Health Science; and Human Services.

1,124 high school students took at least one **AP course** (12%) versus 14% in peer counties (2022).

858 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs** (22%) versus 23% in peer counties (2022).

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

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