Graham County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 8,029
2022 Estimate: 7,980
Change: -49

Growth Rate
-0.6% vs. 2.5% State

Graham County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
1,168 66.3%

Have Degree or Credential
594 33.7%

Educational Attainment

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
48% of Graham County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 68%.

FAFSA Completion
45% of Graham County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 61%.

Math Performance
17% of Graham County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural - non-metro county average of 29%.

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

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 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)

45% of adults (ages 25-44) in Graham County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Graham County is served by:
Southwestern Workforce Development Board
Southwestern Commission
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Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022
711 certificate | 823 associate | 2,570 bachelor’s

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 Graham County, 2022

How students in Graham County traditional schools are doing:
- 45% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 31 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%.
- 56% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties.
- 45% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties.

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023
- 217 of all college-goers attended Tri-County CC
- 72 of all college-goers attended Southwestern CC
- 12 of all college-goers attended Western Carolina University

53% of Graham County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 57% in peer counties.

Graham County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 347:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties.

0% of students drop out of high school (0 total students), compared to 2% statewide.

Access to Postsecondary Credits
Students in Graham County completed 458 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 50 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Business Management & Administration; Manufacturing; and Health Science.

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