Graham County
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

**2030 Proposed Graham County Attainment Goal: 1,248 (Stretch Goal: 1,263)**

**2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million**

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

### Growth Rate
- **-0.6%** (County) vs. **2.5%** (State)

### Median Household Income (2022)
- **$50,301**
- **80%** Home Owners (2022)
- **9.5%** Child Poverty Rate (2022)
- **12.7%** Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
- **56%** Households with Broadband (2022)
- **5.4%** Unemployment Rate (2022)

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- **2022 Estimate:** 7,980
- Change: -49

### County vs. State Growth Rate
- **2.5%**

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- **$50,301**

### Home Owners (2022)
- **80%**

### Child Poverty Rate (2022)
- **9.5%**

### Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
- **12.7%**

### Households with Broadband (2022)
- **56%**

### Unemployment Rate (2022)
- **5.4%**

### Educational Attainment
- Graham County residents ages 25-44, 2022

- **No Degree**: 1,168 (66.3%)  
- **Have Degree or Credential**: 594 (33.7%)

### Educational Attainment by Level
- **Less than high school**: 14%
- **High school graduate (including GED)**: 35%
- **Some college, no credential**: 17%
- **Short-term credential**: 8%
- **Associate degree**: 15%
- **Bachelor’s degree**: 8%
- **Graduate or professional degree**: 3%

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

### 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](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

### Labor Market Alignment

### Top areas of misalignment:
- **Health Science** all levels
- **Transportation, Distribution & Logistics** below bachelor’s
- **Business Management & Administration** bachelor’s

### Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
- **Nurse Practitioners**: 4%
- **Logisticians**: 4%
- **Medical and Health Services Managers**: 3%

### Top 3 Employers in Graham County
- **Graham County Schools**: 100-249
- **Graham County**: 100-249
- **Crisp & Crisp Inc**: 50-99


**Graham County 2024 Attainment Profile**

**Updated: Jul 22 2024**

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**Basic Skills**
- 3,797

**Continuing Education**
- 1,037

**Curriculum**
- 5%

- Of Graham County residents have student loan debt.
- 0% of debt holders had student loans in default.

**Success of Graham County High School Graduates**
- 61% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 56% 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**
- 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

**How students in Graham County traditional schools are doing:**
- 48% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 13 more needed to meet state goal of 75%.
- 20% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 313 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 17% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 330 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 91% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 3 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 34% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 265 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023

**Access to Postsecondary Credits**
- 325 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (68 (21%) were industry-valued credentials) and 62 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Business Management & Administration; Health Science; and Architecture and Construction.

**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**

**School Choice**
- 1,237 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Graham County in the 2022-23 school year.

**Access to Postsecondary Credits**
- Students in Graham County completed 325 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (68 (21%) were industry-valued credentials) and 62 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Business Management & Administration; Health Science; and Architecture and Construction.

- 16 high school students took at least one AP test (<5%) versus 8% in peer counties (2023).
- 48 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (55%) versus 51% in peer counties (2023).

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

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

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**Graham County Sub-Prosperity Zone post-secondary enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022**
- 148 Basic Skills
- 3,797 Continuing Education
- 1,037 Curriculum

**5% of Graham County residents have student loan debt. 0% of debt holders had student loans in default.**

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