Jackson County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

**2030 Proposed Jackson County Attainment Goal:** 8,264 (Stretch Goal: 8,328)

**2030 State Attainment Goal:** 2 million

### Educational Attainment

Jackson County residents ages 25-44, 2022

- **No Degree:** 5,137 (56.9%)
- **Have Degree or Credential:** 3,886 (43.1%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than high school</th>
<th>High school graduate (including GED)</th>
<th>Some college, no credential</th>
<th>Short-term credential</th>
<th>Associate degree</th>
<th>Bachelor's degree</th>
<th>Graduate or professional degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Population Spotlight

- **2020 Census:** 43,107
- **2022 Estimate:** 42,955
- **Change:** -152

### Growth Rate

- **County:** -0.4% vs. **State:** 2.5%

### Median Household Income (2022)

- **State:** $67,516

### Key Indicators

- **Home Owners (2022):** 62% (State: 67%)
- **Child Poverty Rate (2022):** 27.6% (State: 17.2%)
- **Opportunity Youth Rate (2022):** 5.3% (State: 10.0%)
- **Households with Broadband (2022):** 51% (State: 77%)
- **Unemployment Rate (2022):** 3.8% (State: 3.7%)

### Top Opportunities for Growth

- **NC Pre-K Enrollment:** 38% of Jackson County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 68%.
- **FAFSA Completion:** 52% of Jackson County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 61%.
- **Chronic Absenteeism:** 33% of Jackson County students are chronically absent from school, above 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 Jackson County has been meeting local needs: [https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Jackson](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Jackson)

### 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)

- **34%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Jackson County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

### Jackson County is served by:

- Southwestern Workforce Development Board
- Southwestern Commission

### Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Annual Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioners</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logisticians</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Health Services Managers</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top 3 Employers in Jackson County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Employment Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Western Carolina University</td>
<td>1000+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson County Public Schools</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dip Partner Medwest Llc</td>
<td>500-999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### UNC System College Enrollment

- **Curriculum**
- **2015:** 930, **2016:** 860, **2017:** 780, **2018:** 700, **2019:** 620, **2020:** 540, **2021:** 460, **2022:** 380

### NC Community College Enrollment

- **Curriculum**
- **2018:** 230, **2019:** 210, **2020:** 190, **2022:** 170

### Basic Skills

- **First-time Curriculum Enrollments**
- **2018:** 240, **2020:** 220, **2022:** 200

### Continuing Education

- **2018:** 1,400, **2020:** 1,200, **2022:** 1,000
11% of Jackson County residents have student loan debt. 7% of debt holders had student loans in default.

**Success of Jackson County High School Graduates**
- 81% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 66% 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**
- 1,235 of all college-goers attended Southwestern CC
- 83 of all college-goers attended Haywood CC
- 47 of all college-goers attended Asheville-Buncombe TCC

**How students in Jackson County traditional schools are doing:**
- 38% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 74 more needed to meet state goal of 75% in 2023
- 26% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 917 more needed to meet state goal of 73% in 2023
- 30% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 847 more needed to meet state goal of 86% in 2023
- 88% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 22 more needed to meet state goal of 95% in 2023
- 33% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 798 less needed to meet state goal of 11% in 2023

Jackson County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 338:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2023

1% of students drop out of high school (12 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

**School Choice**
4,490 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Jackson County in the 2022-23 school year.

**Access to Postsecondary Credits**
Students in Jackson County completed 649 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (63% were industry-valued credentials) and 131 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Health Science; and Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security.

55 high school students took at least one AP test (<5%) versus 8% in peer counties (2023).

134 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (49%) 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/