Macon County
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Macon County Attainment Goal: 4,991 (Stretch Goal: 5,055)
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 37,016
2022 Estimate: 38,065
Change: 1,049

Growth Rate
2.8% vs. 2.5%
County vs. State

$53,832
Median Household Income (2022)
State: $67,516

74%
Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%

20.8%
Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%

5.7%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
State: 12.1%

58%
Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%

3.5%
Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

Educational Attainment
Macon County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree: 4,228 (58.1%)
Have Degree or Credential: 3,053 (41.9%)

Less than high school: 12%
High school graduate (including GED): 26%
Some college, no credential: 20%
Short-term credential: 8%
Associate degree: 15%
Bachelor’s degree: 16%
Graduate or professional degree: 4%

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

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
59% of Macon County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - non-metro county average of 68%.

School Counselors
Macon County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 430:1, above the rural - non-metro county average of 325:1.

FAFSA Completion
54% of Macon County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 61%.

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

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)

42% of adults (ages 25-44) in Macon County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Macon County is served by:
Southwestern Workforce Development Board
Southwestern Commission

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

UNC System College Enrollment
Curriculum

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

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

Job Title
Nurse Practitioners
Logisticians
Medical and Health Services Managers

4%
4%
3%

Top 3 Employers in Macon County

Employer
Macon County Public Schools
Drake Enterprises Ltd (A Corp)
Macon County

Employment Range
500-999
250-499
250-499

Continuing Education

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

2018 2020 2022
2,000 1,750 1,500 1,250 1,000
2018 2020 2022
160 125 100 75 50

Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro
Local Education Agencies: 1 (2023)
Charter Schools: 0 (2023)
Basic Skills

1,116

Continuing Education

823

Curriculum

8%

of Macon County residents have student loan debt. 14% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of Macon County High School Graduates

• 79% 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

• 1,193 of all college-goers attended Southwestern CC
• 49 of all college-goers attended Tri-County CC
• 38 of all college-goers attended Western Carolina University

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td>2,570</td>
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</table>

Postsecondary assets in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone sub-region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public, 4-year or above</td>
<td>Western Carolina University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public, 2-year</td>
<td>Haywood Community College, Southwestern Community College, Tri-County Community College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private not-for-profit, 2-year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Macon County, 2022

How students in Macon County traditional schools are doing:

• 59% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 26 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
• 27% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 1,172 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
• 27% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 1,180 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
• 93% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 5 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
• 21% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 461 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Macon County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 430:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2022

0% of students drop out of high school (4 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Macon County completed 481 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 125 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; and Health Science.

48 high school students took at least one AP course (<5%) versus 7% in peer counties (2022).

331 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (56%) versus 39% in peer counties (2022).

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