Macon County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Macon County Attainment Goal: 4,991 (58%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 33,922
2020 Census: 37,014
Change: 3,092

Growth Rate
9.1% County vs. 9.5% State

Economic Indicators
$51,973 Median Household Income (2020)
23.6% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
80% Households with Broadband (2020)
73% Home Owners (2020)
79% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
4.2% Unemployment Rate (2021)

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

Educational Attainment
Macon County residents ages 25-44, 2020

No Degree: 56.4% (3,936)
Have Degree or Credential: 43.6% (3,047)

Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding

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

School Counselors
Macon County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 425:1, above the rural non-metro county average of 318:1.

High School Graduation
82% of Macon County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less, below the rural non-metro county average of 86%.

NC Pre-K Enrollment
64% of Macon County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural non-metro county average of 68%.

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-0.8% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-4.3% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-7.9% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-10.2% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

Data Disruptions
- College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
- College-and-Career-Ready in Math
- Chronic Absenteeism

How students in Macon County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Macon County needs:

• 22 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 64%). 2022

• 896 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 28%). 2022

• 1,155 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 28%). 2022

• 52 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 82%). 2021

• 143 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 14%). 2021

Macon County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 425:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties. 2021

School Choice
5,351 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Macon County in the 2021-22 school year.

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

Career and College Preparation
84 high school students took at least one AP course (7%) versus 7% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Macon County completed 156 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Manufacturing.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Macon County, 2021

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.

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Success of Macon County High School Graduates
Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 37% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 9% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 54% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- 5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 92% of college-goers attended an in-state college
- 71% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 59% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners
Macon County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021
- 56 Basic Skills
- 526 Continuing Education
- 897 Curriculum
- 8% of Macon County residents have student loan debt; 17% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
81.2% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
Health Science (all levels)
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s)
Education & Training (above bachelor’s)

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)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 6,126 in Basic Services
- 3,913 in Career Services
- 212 in Education Services
7.5% of young adults ages 16-24 in Macon County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties. 2019

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

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