**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

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- **2010 Census:** 33,922

### Growth Rate
- **County:** 9.1%
- **State:** 9.5%

### Median Household Income
- **2020:** $51,973

### Education Continuum
- **Child Poverty Rate (2020):** 22.4%
- **Households with Broadband (2020):** 82%
- **Home Owners (2020):** 73%
- **Voter Registration Rate (2021):** 79%
- **Unemployment Rate (2021):** 4.2%

### Impact of Covid-19 on 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

### 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%.

### How students in Macon County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Macon County needs:
- **64%** of eligible 4-year-olds **enrolled in NC Pre-K program**; 22 more needed to meet state goal of **75%**, 2022
- **28%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **reading**; 896 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**, 2022
- **28%** of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in **math**; 1,155 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**, 2022
- **82%** of 9th graders **graduate within four years**; 52 more needed to meet state goal of **95%**, 2021
- **14%** of students are **chronically absent from school**; 143 less needed to meet state goal of **11%**, 2021

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

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Macon County, 2021

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

**ncdemography.org**
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Skills</th>
<th>Continuing Education</th>
<th>Curriculum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>897</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

- 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

Postsecondary assets in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone sub-region

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021

- 753 certificate
- 846 associate
- 2,351 bachelor’s

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

Number of Macon County residents employed, January 2020 to March 2022

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/