

Macon County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles



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

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% County vs. **2.5%** 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%



5.3%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
State: 10.9%



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



3.5%
Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

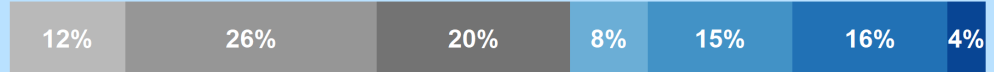
Educational Attainment

Macon County residents ages 25-44, 2022

Less than high school High school graduate (including GED) Some college, no credential Short-term credential Associate degree Bachelor's degree Graduate or professional degree

No Degree
4,228
58.1%

Have Degree or Credential
3,053
41.9%



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

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

80.1%

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
Business Management & Administration 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)



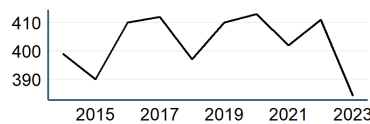
42% of adults (ages 25-44) in Macon County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Macon County is served by:

Southwestern Workforce Development Board
Southwestern Commission

UNC System College Enrollment

Curriculum



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

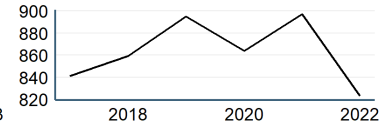
Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4%
Logisticians	4%
Medical and Health Services Managers	3%

Top 3 Employers in Macon County

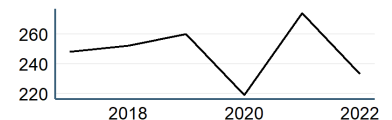
Employer	Employment Range
Macon County Public Schools	500-999
Drake Enterprises Ltd (A Corp)	250-499
Macon County	250-499

NC Community College Enrollment

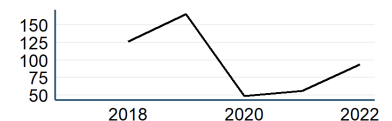
Curriculum



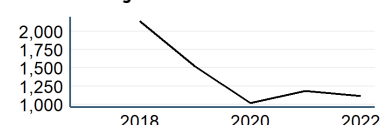
First-time Curriculum Enrollments



Basic Skills



Continuing Education



Adult Learners

Macon County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

94	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**

• 54% of seniors **completed the FAFSA** in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 74 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023

• 69% of graduates reported **intentions to enroll** in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022

• 52% of graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties. 2022



49% of Macon County students have **parents with no college degree** (either 2- or 4-year) versus 55% in peer counties.

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
- 25% of students are **chronically absent from school**, compared to 27% statewide; 637 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023



Macon County has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of 430:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2023



0% of students **drop out of high school** (1 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

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

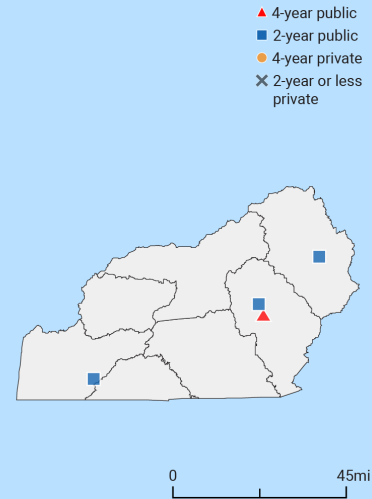
Western Carolina University

Public, 2-year

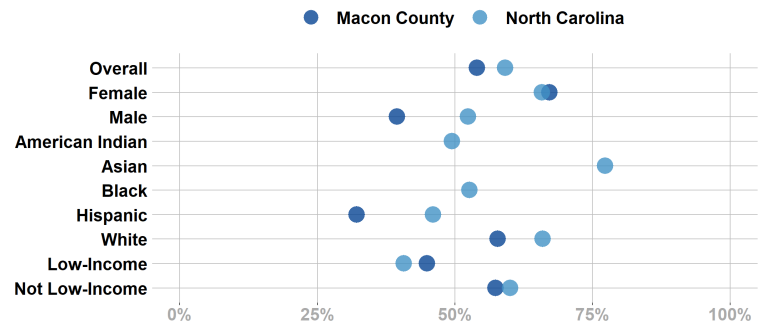
Haywood Community College,
Southwestern Community College, Tri-County Community College

Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above

Private not-for-profit, 2-year



Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Macon County, 2022

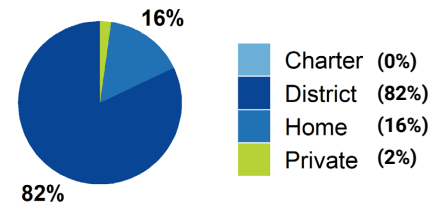


Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

School Choice

5,297 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Macon County in the 2022-23 school year.

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



Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Macon County completed **846 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (192 (23%) were industry-valued credentials)** and **209 concentrations** in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Manufacturing.



83 high school students took at least one **AP test** (6%) versus 8% in peer counties (2023).



206 high school students participated in **Career & College Promise programs** (65%) 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/