### Population Spotlight

| 2020 Census: 1,115,526 | 2022 Estimate: 1,145,392 |
| Change: 29,866 |

### Top Opportunities for Growth

**NC Pre-K Enrollment**
28% of Mecklenburg County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the urban county average of 41%.

**High School Graduation**
83% of Mecklenburg County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less, below the urban county average of 87%.

**FAFSA Completion**
61% of Mecklenburg County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the urban county average of 64%.

### Promising Attainment Practices

The new [Promising Attainment Practices Database](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Mecklenburg) 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 Mecklenburg County has been meeting local needs:**
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Mecklenburg

### Educational Attainment

Mecklenburg County residents ages 25-44, 2022

- **No Degree**: 115,369 (32.6%)
- **Have Degree or Credential**: 238,453 (67.4%)

<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>9%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### UNC System College Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NC Community College Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Annual Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Practitioners</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Scientists</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logisticians</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top Employers in Mecklenburg County

- **Atrium Health**
  - Employment Range: 1000+

- **Wells Fargo Bank Na (A Corp)**
  - Employment Range: 1000+

- **Bank Of America Na**
  - Employment Range: 1000+

### Mecklenburg County is served by:

- Charlotte Works Workforce Development Board
- Centralina Regional Council

### In Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

80.4% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

- **4,230** Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

### UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

- **12,495** graduates in 2020
- 74% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- **$45,387** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

- 62% of adults (ages 25-44) in Mecklenburg County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022
Mecklenburg County 2024 Attainment Profile

Adult Learners
Mecklenburg County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
- 3,111 Basic Skills
- 10,227 Continuing Education
- 15,987 Curriculum

19% of Mecklenburg County residents have student loan debt. 8% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of Mecklenburg County High School Graduates
- 86% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 86% in peer counties. 2022
- 58% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 62% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023
- 19,606 of all college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC
- 1,189 of all college-goers attended Rowan-Cabarrus CC
- 788 of all college-goers attended Gaston College

- 61% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 1,908 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 75% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 81% in peer counties. 2022
- 61% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 64% in peer counties. 2022

40% of Mecklenburg County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 38% in peer counties.

How students in Mecklenburg County traditional schools are doing:
- 28% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 2,393 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 30% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 35,844 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
- 38% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 31,184 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
- 83% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 1,445 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 32% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 31,124 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Mecklenburg County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 238:1 versus 286:1 in peer counties. 2022

3% of students drop out of high school (1,242 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

School Choice
194,864 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Mecklenburg 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 Mecklenburg County completed 8,981 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 4,293 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Hospitality & Tourism; Marketing; and Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics.

9,614 high school students took at least one AP course (22%) versus 24% in peer counties (2022).
2,322 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (12%) versus 12% in peer counties (2022).

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