Mecklenburg County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Mecklenburg County Attainment Goal: 299,257 (Stretch Goal: 301,057) 2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

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

Growth Rate 2.7% County vs. 2.5% State

Median Household Income (2022) $80,645
State: $67,516

Home Owners (2022) 56% State: 67%

Child Poverty Rate (2022) 15.5% State: 17.2%

Opportunity Youth Rate (2022) 10.1% State: 15.0%

Households with Broadband (2022) 82% State: 83%

Unemployment Rate (2022) 3.5% State: 3.5%

Change: 29,866 2.7% County vs. 2.5% State

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2022: 1,145,392
Change: 29,866 2.7% County vs. 2.5% State

County vs. State: 2.7% County vs. 2.5%

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

Educational Attainment
Mecklenburg County residents ages 25-44, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Degree</th>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>115,369</td>
<td>238,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.6%</td>
<td>67.4%</td>
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</tbody>
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Top Opportunities for Growth
These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Mecklenburg County to improve future attainment outcomes.

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 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

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 is served by:
Charlotte Works Workforce Development Board
Centralina Regional Council
Mecklenburg County 2024 Attainment Profile

**Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022**
- 6,906 certificate
- 6,066 associate
- 9,125 bachelor’s

**Postsecondary assets in Charlotte Prosperity Zone sub-region**
- Public, 4-year or above: Carolinas College of Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Public, 2-year: Central Piedmont Community College, Cleveland Community College, Gaston College, Mitchell Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, South Piedmont Community College, Stanly Community College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above: Belmont Abbey College, Cabarrus College of Health Sciences, Catawba College, Charlotte Christian College and Theological Seminary, Davidson College, Gardner-Webb University, Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte, Johnson C Smith University, Livingstone College, Pfeiffer University, Queens University of Charlotte, Wingate University
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year: Gaston College, Gaston College, Gaston College, Gaston College

**Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Mecklenburg County, 2022**

**Access to Postsecondary Credits**
- Students in Mecklenburg County completed 9,833 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (2,585 (26%) were industry-valued credentials) and 4,410 associate degrees.
- 10,373 high school students took at least one AP test (23%) versus 26% in peer counties (2023).
- 2,223 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (22%) versus 21% in peer counties (2023).

**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 complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%.
- 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%.
- 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%.
- 83% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 1,445 more needed to meet state goal of 95%.
- 26% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 21,917 less needed to meet state goal of 11%.

**School Choice**
- 194,864 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Mecklenburg County in the 2022-23 school year.

**How students in Mecklenburg County traditional schools are doing:**
- 61% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 1,938 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%.
- 75% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 81% in peer counties.
- 61% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 64% in peer counties.

**Adult Learners**
- Charlotte Sub-Prosperty Zone post-secondary enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
  - 2,910 Basic Skills
  - 29,351 Continuing Education
  - 8,357 Curriculum
- 19% of Mecklenburg County residents have student loan debt; 8% of debt holders had student loans in default.

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

**Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023**
- 61% of college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC
- 19% of college-goers attended Rowan-Cabarrus CC
- 78% of college-goers attended Gaston College

**Postsecondary assets in Charlotte Prosperity Zone sub-region**
- Public, 4-year or above: Carolinas College of Health Sciences, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- Public, 2-year: Central Piedmont Community College, Cleveland Community College, Gaston College, Mitchell Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, South Piedmont Community College, Stanly Community College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above: Belmont Abbey College, Cabarrus College of Health Sciences, Catawba College, Charlotte Christian College and Theological Seminary, Davidson College, Gardner-Webb University, Johnson & Wales University-Charlotte, Johnson C Smith University, Livingstone College, Pfeiffer University, Queens University of Charlotte, Wingate University
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**Mecklenburg County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 238:1 versus 286:1 in peer counties.**

**3% of students drop out of high school (1,194 total students), compared to 2% statewide.**

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