Pender County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Pender County Attainment Goal: 12,441 (Stretch Goal: 12,557)

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 60,208
2022 Estimate: 65,737
Change: 5,529

Growth Rate
9.2% vs. 2.5%

County State

$73,663 Median Household Income (2022)
82% Home Owners (2022)
15.8% Child Poverty Rate (2022)
11.6% Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
69% Households with Broadband (2022)
3.5% Unemployment Rate (2022)

Educational Attainment
Pender County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree 7,207 48.8%
Have Degree or Credential 7,567 51.2%

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

School Counselors
Pender County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 460:1, above the rural - metro county average of 362:1.

Chronic Absenteeism
36% of Pender County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural - metro county average of 34%.

FAFSA Completion
57% of Pender County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - metro county average of 58%.

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 Pender County has been meeting local needs: https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Pender

83.8% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

273 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
5,768 graduates in 2020
66% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$44,807 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

56% of adults (ages 25-44) in Pender County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Pender County is served by: Cape Fear Workforce Development Board Cape Fear Council of Governments

Carolina Demography

myFutureNC 2 million by 2030

John M Bell Endowment

UNC CAROLINA POPULATION CENTER
### Basic Skills
- Fall 2022: 98
- Continuing Education: 2,122
- Curriculum: 1,680

14% of Pender County residents have student loan debt. 6% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

### Continuing Education
- Fall 2022: 2,122

### Curriculum
- Fall 2022: 1,680

### Career & College Promise Participants
- Fall 2022: 507

### Access to Postsecondary Credits
- Fall 2022: 293

### College and Career Access
- Fall 2022: 39%

### College Readiness
- Fall 2022: 36%

### How students in Pender County traditional schools are doing:
- Pender County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). 2023
- 33% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 2,578 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 39% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 2,298 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 94% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 11 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 36% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 2,616 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022
- Pender County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 460:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2022
- 1% of students drop out of high school (48 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

### Success of Pender County High School Graduates
- 77% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 79% in peer counties. 2022
- 56% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 56% in peer counties. 2022
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### Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023
- 2,405 of all college-goers attended Cape Fear CC
- 80 of all college-goers attended Coastal Carolina CC
- 68 of all college-goers attended James Sprunt CC

### Academic Readiness
- Fall 2022: 911 certificate, 1,617 associate, 3,674 bachelor’s

### Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022
- Public, 4-year or above: 1,617
- Public, 2-year: 911
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above: 3,674
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year: 1,617

### Postsecondary assets in Wilmington Prosperity Zone sub-region
- Public, 4-year or above
  - University of North Carolina Wilmington
- Public, 2-year
  - Brunswick Community College, Cape Fear Community College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
  - Private not-for-profit, 2-year

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Pender County, 2022
- North Carolina: 88%
- District: 88%
- Home: 11%
- Private: 2%

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### Access to Postsecondary Credits
- Fall 2022: 3,675 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 409 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Health Science; and Architecture and Construction.
- 293 high school students took at least one AP course (9%) versus 7% in peer counties (2022).
- 507 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (38%) versus 31% in peer counties (2022).

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