Union County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Union County Attainment Goal: 56,704 (70%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 201,292
2020 Census: 238,267
Change: 36,975

Growth Rate
18.4% vs. 9.5% County vs. State

Median Household Income (2020)
$90,920

9.9% Child Poverty Rate (2020)

95% Households with Broadband (2020)

83% Home Owners (2020)

82% Voter Registration Rate (2021)

3.9% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Updated: Dec 08 2022

Charlotte
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Suburban
Local Education Agencies: 1
Charter Schools: 5

Educational Attainment
Union County residents ages 25-44, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Degree</th>
<th>44.2%</th>
<th>24,170</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have Degree or Credential</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
<td>30,570</td>
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Note: Numbers may add to more than 100% due to rounding

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
47% of Union County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the state average of 51%.

Math Performance
52% of Union County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

Reading Performance
42% of Union County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the state goal of 73%.

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-2.5% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-0.9% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-1.3% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-0.5% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

Data Disruptions
- College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
- College-and-Career-Ready in Math
- Chronic Absenteeism

How students in Union County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Union County needs:

- 222 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 47%). 2022
- 5,816 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 42%). 2022
- 6,289 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 52%). 2022
- 82 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 93%). 2021
- 4,431 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 22%). 2021

Union County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 318:1 versus 336:1 in peer counties. 2021

School Choice
53,680 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Union County in the 2021-22 school year.

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

Career and College Preparation
849 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (26%) versus 33% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Union County completed 1,386 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Hospitality & Tourism; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Union County, 2021

- Overall
- Female
- Male
- Black
- Hispanic
- White
- Low-Income
- Not Low-Income

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
**Success of Union County High School Graduates**

**Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020**

- 55% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 16% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 29% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 82% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 83% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 77% in peer counties. 2021
- 69% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2021

**Adult Learners**

Union County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

- 404 Basic Skills
- 1,328 Continuing Education
- 4,288 Curriculum

15% of Union County residents have student loan debt; 9% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

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**In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:**

82.2% 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)

**In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:**

- 16,131 in Basic Services
- 7,386 in Career Services
- 506 in Education Services

7.8% of young adults ages 16-24 in Union County were not working and not in school versus 11.2% in peer counties. 2019

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**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 Union County has been meeting local needs:

[https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Union](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Union)

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**For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:**

[dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/](dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/)