Union County
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

2030 Proposed Union County Attainment Goal: 56,704 (Stretch Goal: 57,126)
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 238,233
2022 Estimate: 249,070
Change: 10,837
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2022 Estimate: 249,070
Change: 10,837

Growth Rate
4.5% vs. 2.5%
County
State

Median Household Income (2022)
$95,079
County
$67,516
State

Home Owners (2022)
83%
State: 67%

Child Poverty Rate (2022)
8.6%
State: 17.2%

Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
9.4%
State: 10.0%

Households with Broadband (2022)
82%
State: 77%

Unemployment Rate (2022)
3.1%
State: 3.7%

Educational Attainment
Union County residents ages 25-44, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Degree</th>
<th>Have Degree or Credential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23,276</td>
<td>31,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.2%</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Numbers may not add up to 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 63%.

Math Performance
54% of Union County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

Reading Performance
44% of Union County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Reading, below the state goal of 73%.

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

In Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

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

4,230Individuals 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)

63% of adults (ages 25-44) in Union County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Union County is served by:
Centralina Workforce Development Board
Centralina Regional Council

Top areas of misalignment:
Business Management & Administration bachelor’s
Finance bachelor’s
Information Technology bachelor’s

Top 3 Employers in Union County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer</th>
<th>Employment Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Union County Public Schools</td>
<td>1000+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Of Union</td>
<td>1000+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyson Farms Inc.</td>
<td>1000+</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>

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

Continuing Education

Union County Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Local Education Agencies: 1 (2023)
Charter Schools: 5 (2023)
Union 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
- 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

How students in Union County traditional schools are doing:
- 66% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 437 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%.
- 83% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 73% in peer counties.
- 56% of Union County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 48% in peer counties.

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023
- 3,602 of all college-goers attended South Piedmont CC
- 2,010 of all college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC
- 444 of all college-goers attended Wingate University

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Union County, 2022

School Choice
- 54,897 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Union County in the 2022-23 school year.

Access to Postsecondary Credits
- Students in Union County completed 12,985 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (3,293 [25%] were industry-valued credentials) and 1,836 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science, Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources, and Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications.

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