Union County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

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

Growth Rate
4.5% vs. 2.5%
County vs. State

Education Attainment
Union County residents ages 25-44, 2022

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.

4,230 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)

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

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 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>

In Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

80.4%
Union County 2024 Attainment Profile

**Adult Learners**
Union County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
- 464 Basic Skills
- 2,851 Continuing Education
- 4,557 Curriculum

- 15% of Union County residents have student loan debt; 6% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

**Success of Union County High School Graduates**
- 86% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 82% in peer counties. 2022
- 68% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2022

**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

- 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%. 2023
- 83% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 73% in peer counties. 2022
- 69% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 57% in peer counties. 2022

- 39% of Union County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 48% in peer counties.

**How students in Union County traditional schools are doing:**
- 47% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 200 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 44% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 8,040 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 54% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 5,970 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 92% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 98 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 28% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 6,970 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Union County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 313:1 versus 327:1 in peer counties. 2022

- 1% of students drop out of high school (135 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

**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

**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.

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

**Access to Postsecondary Credits**
Students in Union County completed 11,135 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 1,785 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed included Health Science, Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources, and Hospitality & Tourism.

- 2,902 high school students took at least one AP course (21%) versus 14% in peer counties (2022).
- 1,204 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (19%) versus 23% in peer counties (2022).

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