Union County

myFutureNC 2026 Attainment Profiles

This profile reflects the county as a whole, not any single institution.

Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Suburban
Click to view peer counties

Educational Attainment

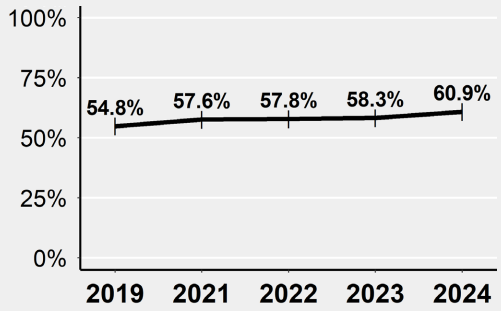
Union County residents ages 25-44, 2024

Have Degree or Credential
35,652
60.9%

No Degree
22,910
39.1%

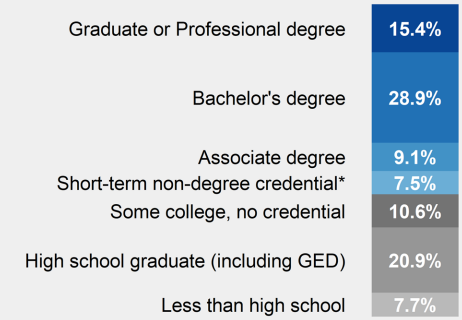
Residents Ages 25-44
58,562

Educational Attainment Trend



Note: 2020 data not shown due to inconsistency

Educational Level Breakdown, 2024



*ACS excludes non-degree certificates; a 7.5% estimate is used for all counties.

2024 Union County Attainment Progress (ages 25-44)- 21,052 more residents needed to meet 2030 goal

2030 Goal: 56,704

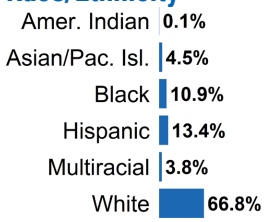
Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 238,237
2024 Estimate: 263,386
Change: 25,149

Growth Rate

10.6% County vs. **5.8%** State

Race/Ethnicity



$107,681 Median Household Income (2024) **State:** $74,055

81.6% Home Owners (2024) **State:** 66.8%

82.2% Households with Broadband (2024) **State:** 77.8%

10.6% Child Poverty Rate (2024) **State:** 16.5%

13.7% Single Parent Households (2024) **State:** 17.0%

12.2% Foreign Born (2024) **State:** 9.9%

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

Top Opportunities for Growth

Family Sustaining Wage
64% of Union County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage , below the state goal of 66%.

In Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

82.1%
of postsecondary degrees and certificates conferred by regional institutions are **aligned with labor market needs.**

Top Misalignments

Job Openings vs. Degrees/Certificates

- **Education** Jobs < Creds
- **Management & Entrepreneurship** Jobs > Creds
- **Digital Technology** Jobs > Creds

Union County Resident ApprenticeshipNC Program Enrollment

51 residents enrolled in registered pre-apprenticeships in 2024
323 residents enrolled in ApprenticeshipNC program in 2024

Charlotte PZ-Sub Region UNC and NCCC Outcomes

14,472 graduates in 2023
74.8% of 2019 graduates were employed in NC in 2024
$53,504 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2024

64.2% of adults (ages 25-44) in Union County earned a **family sustaining wage. Peer:** 52.4% | **State:** 57.8%, 2024

10.2% of youth (ages 16-24) in Union County were **Opportunity Youth. Peer:** 11.2% | **State:** 10.3%, 2023

84.9% of adults (ages 25-44) in Union County **participated in the labor force. Peer:** 83.4% | **State:** 84.4%, 2024

Top 3 5-Star Jobs in Charlotte PZ Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	5.34%
Physician Assistants	3.68%
Medical and Health Services Managers	3.59%

Click to view complete list for above table

Top 3 Employers in Union County

Employer	Employment Range
Union County Schools	1000+
County of Union	1000+
ATI Specialty Materials	1000+

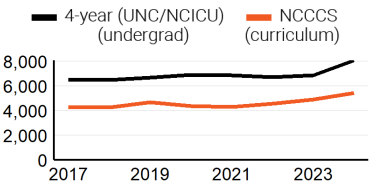
Click to view complete list for above table

Top 3 Industries in Union County

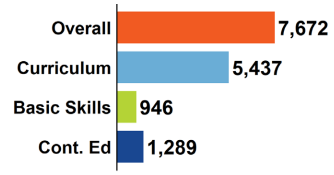
Industry	Jobs | Percent
Manufacturing	12,272 | 16.6%
Construction	10,487 | 13.4%
Retail Trade	8,471 | 11.2%

Click to view complete list for above table

Union County Residents Enrolled in NC Colleges & Universities (2017-2024)



Union County Residents Enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2024



Union County is served by:

- **Centralina Workforce Development Board**
- **Centralina Regional Council**

Union County 2026 Attainment Profile (all data pertaining to K-12 represents traditional public school students)

Updated: Feb 10 2026

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth

Postsecondary Completion
68% of Union County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or certificate within 6 years, below the state goal of 80%.

Degree Certificates Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2024

8,389 Certificate | **6,551** Associate | **8,810** Bachelor's

Adult Learners

Union County Residents Aged 25+ enrolled in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2024

692 Basic Skills
1,082 Continuing Education
805 Curriculum

10.6% of residents (aged 25-44) **have some college but no degree. Peer:** 14.5% | **State:** 11.1%, 2024

14.8% of Union County residents have **student loan debt**, **1.1%** of debt holders had **student loans in default.** 2024

Success of Union County High School Graduates

89.3% of 2022 high school graduates who enrolled **persisted to their second year. Peer:** 82.6% | **State:** 81.9%, 2024

68.5% of 2017 high school graduates who enrolled **earned a degree or certificate** within 6 years. **Peer:** 60.8% | **State:** 60.2%, 2024

Top College Destinations of Union County Residents (Enrolled in Fall 2024)

- **4,711** of all college-goers attended **South Piedmont CC**
- **2,127** of all college-goers attended **Central Piedmont CC**
- **1,605** of all college-goers attended **UNC Charlotte**

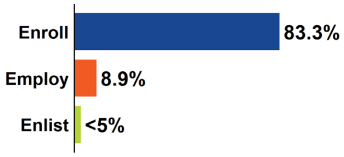
COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

FAFSA Completion
62% of Union County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the state goal of 80%.

61.8% of 2025 high school class **completed the FAFSA** as of Sept. 26, 2025. 621 more needed to complete in 2025 to meet state goal of **80%.** **Peer:** 61.1% | **State:** 60.8%

Class of 2024 Traditional Public High School Graduate Intentions

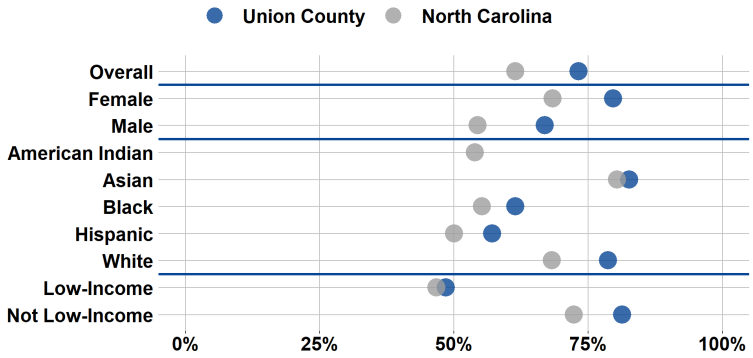


36.8% of children 0-17 have **parents with no college degree** (2- or 4-year). 2023
Peer: 46.1% | **State:** 45.1%

93.0% of 9th graders **graduated within four years.** 67 more needed to meet state goal of **95%**. **Peer:** 88.5% | **State:** 88.0% 2024

71.5% of 2023 graduates **enrolled in a postsecondary institution** within 12 months. **Peer:** 59.0% | **State:** 59.7% 2024

Union County Class of 2023 Traditional High-School Graduates Who Enrolled in College Within 12 Months



Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

NC Pre-K Enrollment
43% of Union County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 48%.

43.0% of eligible 4-year-olds **enrolled in NC Pre-K program** in 2025. 261 more needed to meet state goal of **75%**. **Peer:** 47.8% | **State:** 58.5%

Note: Enrollment numbers only include students served by the NC Pre-K Program and may not represent all Pre-K offerings available.

Union County Traditional Public Schools students:

43.6% of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading** in 2025. 5,439 more needed to meet state goal of **73%**. **Peer:** 30.8% | **State:** 30.8%

59.6% of 3-8 graders **earned college-and-career-ready scores in math** in 2025. 4,882 more needed to meet state goal of **86%**. **Peer:** 37.8% | **State:** 37.3%

16.5% of students were **chronically absent from school** in 2024. 2,382 fewer needed to meet state goal of **11%**. **Peer:** 23.7% | **State:** 25.7%

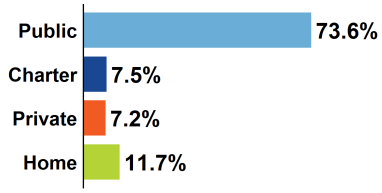
Union County has a **student-to-school counselor ratio** of **308:1** compared to **336:1** in peer counties. 2025

0.5% of students **drop out of high school** (78 total students), compared to **2.0%** statewide. 2024

School & Student Overview (2025 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 52
Charter School(s): 4
Private School(s): 21
Home School(s): 3,964

55,191 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed **13,161 Career & Technical Education (CTE) certificates** and **3,996 concentrations (industry-valued credential data to be updated spring 2026).** The top three CTE concentrations: Health Science; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications, 2024

3,852 (26.7%) high school students took at least one **AP, IB, or CIE exam. State:** 18.4% (2024).

1,174 (33.9%) high school graduates participated in **Career & College Promise programs. State:** 36.0% (2024).

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

CAROLINA DEMOGRAPHY
myFUTURENC 2 million by 2030
John M Belk Endowment
UNC CAROLINA POPULATION CENTER