

Union County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Charlotte
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Suburban

Educational Attainment

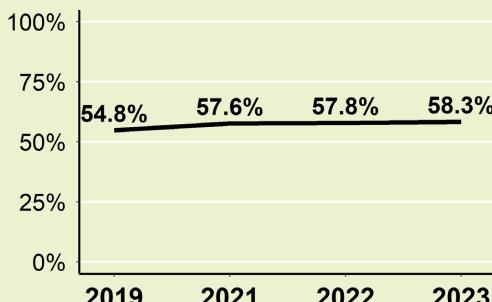
Union County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
33,077
58.3%

No Degree
23,639
41.7%

Residents Ages 25-44
56,716

Educational Attainment Trend



Note: 2020 data not shown due to inconsistency

Educational Level Breakdown, 2023

Graduate or Professional degree	14.0%
Bachelor's degree	27.8%
Associate degree	9.0%
Short-term credential	7.5%
Some college, no credential	12.3%
High school graduate (including GED)	20.6%
Less than high school	8.7%

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

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

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 238,234
2023 Estimate: 256,452
Change: 18,218

Growth Rate

7.6% County vs. **3.8%** State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian	0.1%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	4.1%
Black	10.9%
Hispanic	12.9%
Multiracial	3.5%
White	68%



\$98,776
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



81.8%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



81.6%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



9.9%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



4.6%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 7.1%



11.5%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

63% of Union County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the state goal of 66%.

In Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

79.7%

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

Top Misalignments

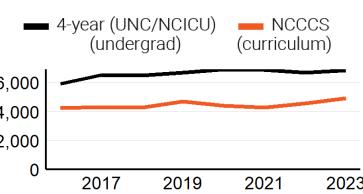
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- **Education & Training** Jobs < Creds
- **Business Management & Administration** Jobs > Creds
- **Health Science** Jobs > Creds

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Charlotte Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4.48%
Data Scientists	3.83%
Logisticians	3.62%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Union County Residents



262 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

12,495 graduates in 2020

74.0% 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), 2021



63.0% of adults (ages 25-44) in Union County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 51.8% | State: 57.6%, 2023



9.4% of youth (ages 16-24) in Union County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 12.0% | State: 10.9%, 2022

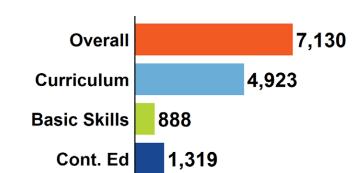


84.1% of adults (ages 25-44) in Union County participated in the labor force. Peer: 83.4% | State: 84.2%, 2023

Top 3 Employers in Union County

Employer	Employment Range
Union County Schools	1000+
County of Union	1000+
ati Specialty Materials LLC	1000+

Union County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Top 3 Industries in Union County

	Jobs Percent
Manufacturing	12,320 16.6%
Construction	9,964 13.4%
Retail Trade	8,300 11.2%

Union County is served by:

- Centralina Workforce Development Board
- Centralina Regional Council

Top Opportunities for Growth



Postsecondary Completion

69% of Union County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the state goal of 80%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

4,911 certificate | 5,727 associate | 8,744 bachelor's

Adult Learners

Union County Residents Aged 25+ enrolled in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2023

602 Basic Skills
1,119 Continuing Education
710 Curriculum

12.3% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.1% | State: 11.7%, 2023

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

88.8% of students who enroll persist to their second year.
Peer: 83.9% | State: 83.8%, 2023

94.3% UNC | 74.9% NCCCS | 90.1% NCICU

69.2% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 61.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

41.5% UNC | 6.3% NCCCS | 6.2% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 4,253 of all college-goers attended South Piedmont CC
- 2,072 of all college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC
- 1,578 of all college-goers attended UNC Charlotte

Top Opportunities for Growth

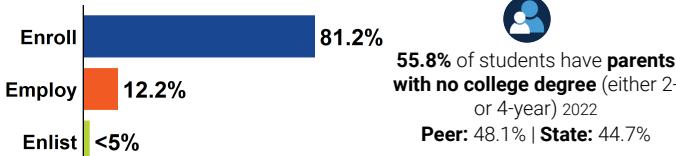


FAFSA Completion

60% of Union County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the state goal of 80%.

59.5% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 671 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 55.0% | State: 55.0%

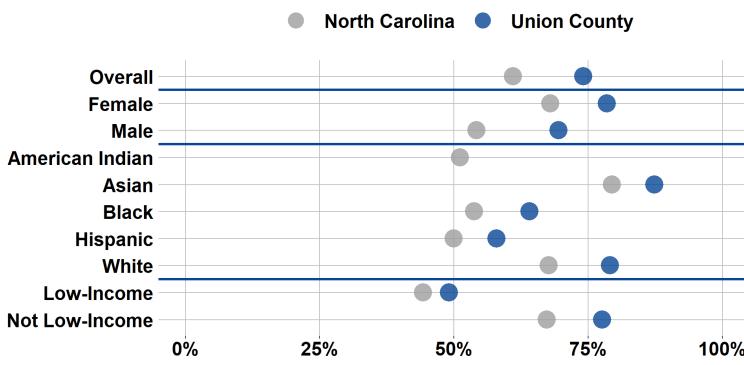
Post High School Graduation Intentions



93.3% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 62 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 88.5% | State: 87.3% 2024

72.4% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 58.8% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Union County, 2023



Top Opportunities for Growth



NC Pre-K Enrollment

33% of Union County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 46%.

33.0% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 365 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 46.5% | State: 57.2%

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:

42.9% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 5,641 more needed to meet state goal of 73%.
Peer: 30.8% | State: 29.8%

57.7% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 5,301 more needed to meet state goal of 86%.
Peer: 37.8% | State: 36.5%

18.6% of students were chronically absent from school in 2023. 3,273 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 25.3% | State: 27.5%

Union County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 329:1 compared to 328:1 in peer counties. 2024

0.8% of students drop out of high school (124 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1

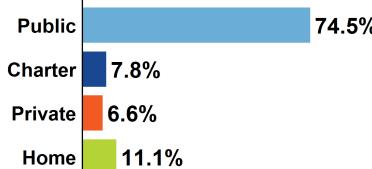
Traditional Public School(s): 52

Charter School(s): 5

Private School(s): 21

Home School(s): 3,743

55,560 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 12,985 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 1,836 concentrations. 3,293 (25.4%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Health Science; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications.

3,240 (22.9%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

1,076 (31.9%) high school graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs. State: 35.5% (2023).

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