

# Mecklenburg County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Charlotte  
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region  
Peer County Type: Urban

## Educational Attainment

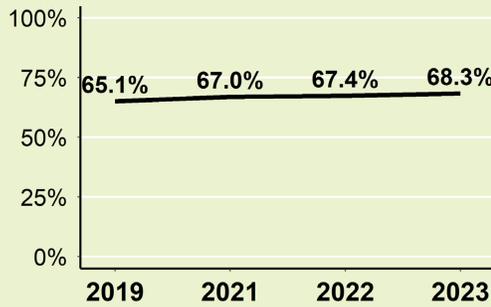
Mecklenburg County residents ages 25-44, 2023

**Have Degree or Credential**  
246,031  
68.3%

**No Degree**  
114,102  
31.7%

**Residents Ages 25-44**  
360,133

## Educational Attainment Trend



Note: 2020 data not shown due to inconsistency

## Educational Level Breakdown, 2023



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

2030 Proposed Mecklenburg County Attainment Goal: 299,257 (Stretch Goal: 301,057)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

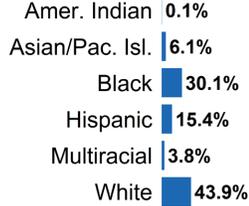
## Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 1,115,534  
2023 Estimate: 1,163,701  
Change: 48,167

## Growth Rate

4.3% County vs. 3.8% State

## Race/Ethnicity



**\$84,796**  
Median Household Income (2023)  
State: \$70,838



**55.5%**  
Home Owners (2023)  
State: 66.3%



**83.2%**  
Households with Broadband (2023)  
State: 77.1%



**14.9%**  
Child Poverty Rate (2023)  
State: 17.6%



**7.0%**  
Single Parent Households (2023)  
State: 7.1%



**16.9%**  
Foreign Born (2023)  
State: 9.2%

## Top Opportunities for Growth



### Family Sustaining Wage

63% of Mecklenburg 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

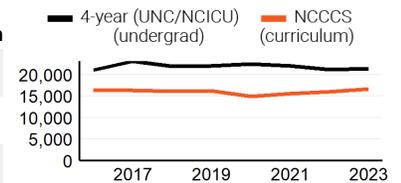
### Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- **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 Mecklenburg County Residents



**1,443** 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

**63.1%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Mecklenburg County earned a **family sustaining wage**. Peer: 61.6% | State: 57.6%, 2023

**10.1%** of youth (ages 16-24) in Mecklenburg County were **Opportunity Youth**. Peer: 9.6% | State: 10.9%, 2022

**87.9%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Mecklenburg County **participated in the labor force**. Peer: 86.8% | State: 84.2%, 2023

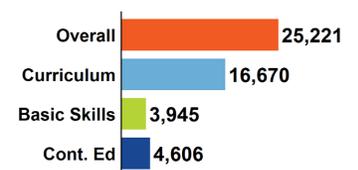
## Top 3 Employers in Mecklenburg County

Employer	Employment Range
Charlotte Mecklenburg Hospital	1000+
Wells Fargo Bank	1000+
Bank of America Na	1000+

## Top 3 industries in Mecklenburg County

Industry	Jobs   Percent
Health Care and Social Assistance	95,494   12.1%
Finance and Insurance	86,628   11.0%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	70,842   9.0%

## Mecklenburg County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



## Mecklenburg County is served by:

- Charlotte Works Workforce Development Board
- Centralina Regional Council

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

**Top Opportunities for Growth**



**Postsecondary Completion**

59% of Mecklenburg County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the urban county average of 63%.

**Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023**

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

**Adult Learners**

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

2,910 Basic Skills  
4,036 Continuing Education  
4,194 Curriculum

8.9% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 8.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



19.2% of Mecklenburg County residents have student loan debt; 1.3% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

**Success of Mecklenburg County High School Graduates**

86.8% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 86.9% | State: 83.8%, 2023

94.5% UNC | 73.5% NCCCS | 82.0% NCICU

59.3% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 62.7% | State: 60.0%, 2023

37.6% UNC | 5.6% NCCCS | <5% NCICU

**Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023**

- 20,896 of all college-goers attended Central Piedmont CC
- 5,691 of all college-goers attended UNC Charlotte
- 2,123 of all college-goers attended UNC Chapel Hill

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

**Top Opportunities for Growth**

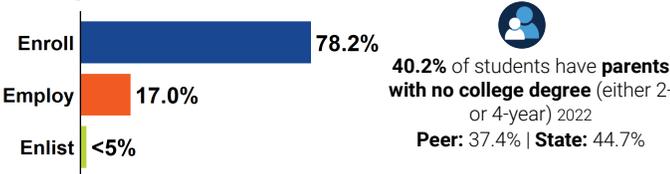


**Postsecondary Enrollment**

62% of Mecklenburg County seniors enroll in postsecondary education within 12 months of graduation, below the urban county average of 66%.

55.0% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 2,426 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 56.9% | State: 55.0%

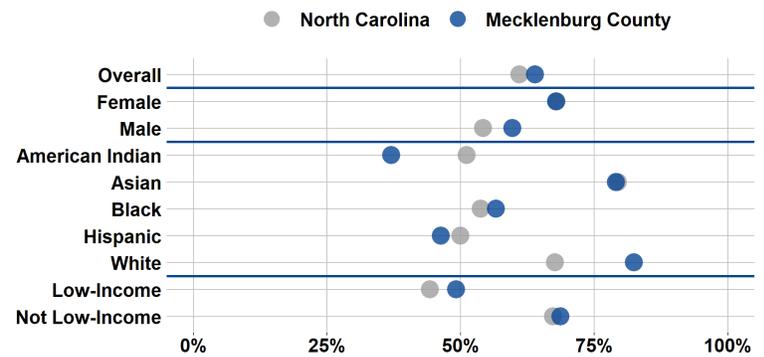
**Post High School Graduation Intentions**



84.0% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 1,272 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 87.9% | State: 87.3% 2024

62.2% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 66.5% | State: 59.3% 2023

**Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Mecklenburg County, 2023**



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**

31% of Mecklenburg County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the urban county average of 45%.

31.0% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 2,047 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 45.2% | 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.

**Mecklenburg County Traditional Public Schools students:**

30.0% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 27,595 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 33.8% | State: 29.8%

38.9% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 30,210 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 40.5% | State: 36.5%

25.6% of students were chronically absent from school in 2023. 21,917 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.7% | State: 27.5%

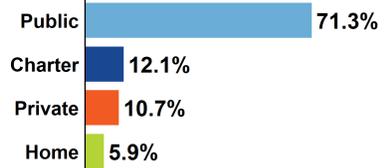
Mecklenburg County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 232:1 compared to 281:1 in peer counties. 2024

2.5% of students drop out of high school (1,194 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

**School & Student Overview (2024 school year)**

Traditional Public School District(s): 1  
Traditional Public School(s): 184  
Charter School(s): 34  
Private School(s): 96  
Home School(s): 7,316

196,805 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



**Pathways to College and Career**

Students in traditional public schools completed 9,833 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 4,410 concentrations. 2,585 (26.3%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Hospitality & Tourism; Marketing; and Health Science.

11,404 (26.5%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

2,223 (22.0%) 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/](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/)