

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

2023 STUDENT PROFILE


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Western
Carolina
UNIVERSITY



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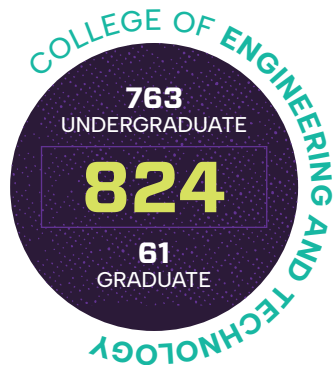
Western Carolina University, the westernmost institution in the UNC System, offers high-quality academic programs and robust support for students from across North Carolina and the globe. As an affordable choice thanks to the NC Promise Tuition Plan and Catamount Commitment, Western Carolina has raised the bar for setting our students up for success. Nestled in the stunning Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains, what's happening in our corner of North Carolina has global implications. WCU provides unique learning experiences with residential, hybrid, and online programs. With an enrollment of 11,628 students in 2023, WCU has grown into a significant cultural, economic, and educational force since its founding in 1889.

WCU offers a wide range of bachelor's, master's, education specialist, and doctoral degrees, WCU provides more than 115 undergraduate degree programs, over 40 master's-level programs and certificates, and six doctoral programs, all while maintaining a strong focus as a premier regional university. **Our partnerships make us strong. Our commitment drives us forward. Our passion makes us Western.**

TOTAL ENROLLMENT 11,628

ENROLLMENT BY COLLEGE

*Unduplicated headcount per college. Some students may be enrolled in more than one college.



NOT YET DECLARED OR NON-DEGREE: 1,067
 UNDERGRADUATE: 1,056 | GRADUATE: 11

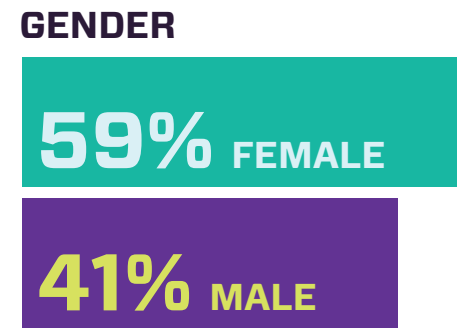
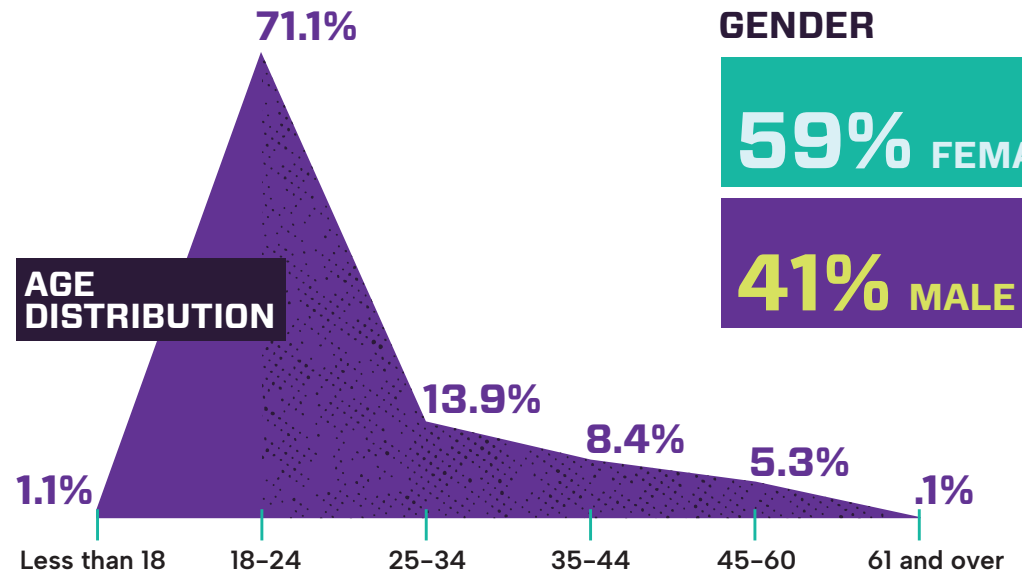


RETENTION RATE

1 YEAR Fall 2022 Cohort
75.5%

GRADUATION RATES

4 YEAR Fall 2019 Cohort **42.7%**
6 YEAR Fall 2017 Cohort **58.8%**



RACE/ETHNICITY

American Indian or Alaska Native: 94-0.8%	Multiple Race/Ethnicity: 441-3.8%
Asian: 148-1.3%	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: 14-0.1%
Black or African American: 788-6.8%	White: 8,813-75.8%
Hispanics of Any Race: 963-8.3%	Unknown or International: 367-3.1%

TOP MAJORS FALL 23

TOP 20 UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

- Business Admin & Law
- Psychology
- Nursing
- Criminal Justice
- Management
- Biology
- Integrated Health Sciences
- Emergency & Disaster Mgt
- Marketing
- Forensic Science
- Emergency Medical Care
- Finance
- Birth - Kindergarten
- Elementary Education
- Construction Management
- Music
- Innovation Leadership and Entrepreneurship
- Engineering
- English
- Art



TOP 5 GRADUATE MAJORS

- Physical Therapy
- Social Work
- Human Resources
- Business Administration
- Health Sciences

DEGREES CONFERRED 2022-23

BACHELORS
2,538

MASTER'S
568

DOCTORAL
79

DEGREES CONFERRED BY COLLEGE*

College of Arts and Sciences: **863** | College of Engineering and Technology: **201**

College of Education and Allied Professions: **642** | College of Business: **794**

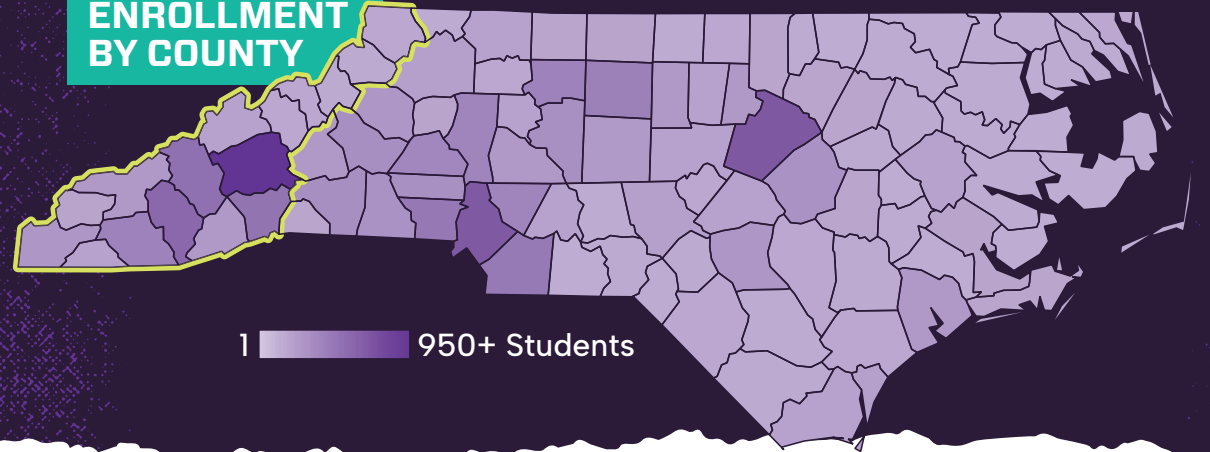
David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts: **151**

College of Health and Human Sciences: **814**

*per college count of degrees conferred (some students may earn more than one degree)

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION FALL 23

STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY COUNTY



16 COUNTIES IN WNC STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Ashe	30	Jackson	454
Avery	22	Macon	260
Buncombe	971	Madison	60
Cherokee	133	Mitchell	27
Clay	61	Swain	105
Graham	47	Transylvania	107
Haywood	393	Watauga	24
Henderson	373	Yancey	26

THESE COUNTIES ACCOUNT FOR **27%** OF TOTAL ENROLLMENT

TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN STUDENT ENROLLMENT

United States	11,340
Jamaica	43
Mexico	28
Canada	20
Japan	14
Colombia	14
Nigeria	10
Brazil	8
Germany	8
Spain	6
Korea (the Republic of)	5
India	5
Honduras	5
Vietnam	4
Netherlands	4
Denmark	4
Zimbabwe	4
Australia	4
China	4
Kazakhstan	3
Ecuador	3
United Kingdom	3
Bangladesh	3
Pakistan	3
France	3
Thailand	3
Saudi Arabia	3

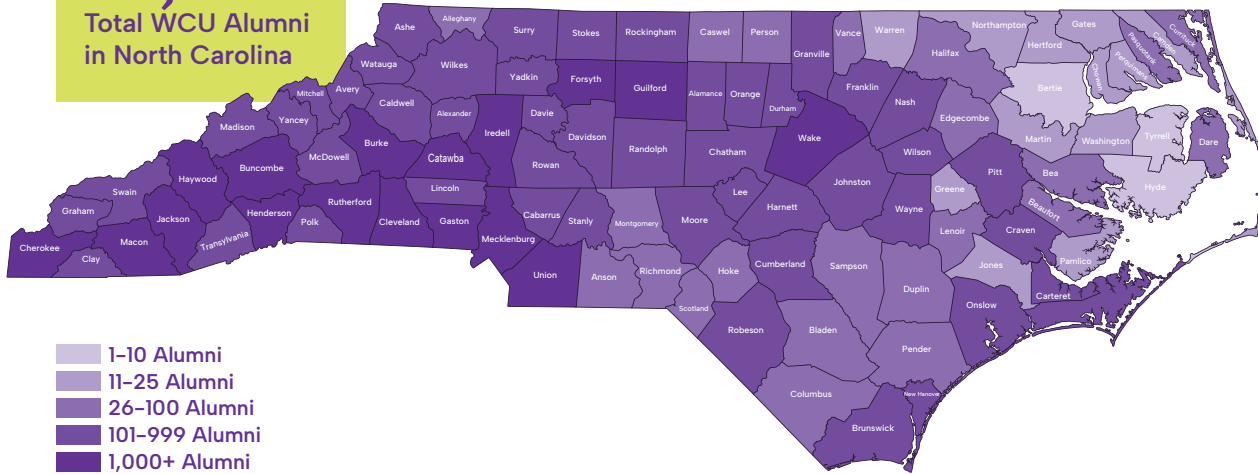
79 FOREIGN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN TOTAL

TOP 10 STATES STUDENT ENROLLMENT

1. North Carolina **9,786**
2. South Carolina **532** | 3. Georgia **329**
4. Florida **147** | 5. Tennessee **76**
6. Virginia **60** | 7. Illinois **40**
7. Pennsylvania **40** | 9. Ohio **29**
10. New Jersey **27** | 10. Maryland **27**

ALUMNI BY COUNTY

57,577
Total WCU Alumni
in North Carolina



- 1-10 Alumni
- 11-25 Alumni
- 26-100 Alumni
- 101-999 Alumni
- 1,000+ Alumni

MILITARY AFFILIATED STUDENTS ENROLLED FALL 2023

**active military, veterans and military dependents*

1,101 IN-STATE

216 OUT-OF-STATE

FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID PELL RECIPIENTS FALL 2023

2,996 IN-STATE

475 OUT-OF-STATE

Forbes 2023
AMERICA'S
BEST EMPLOYERS
BY STATE

WCU RANKS
25TH
TOP 100 EMPLOYERS
IN NORTH CAROLINA.

WCU IN ASHEVILLE



WCU is proud to serve the Greater Buncombe-Henderson County area of WNC. WCU has offered degree programs in Asheville for more than 85 years. The university's programs are consolidated in Asheville at Biltmore Park Town Square where it focuses on professional and graduate degrees for working students, partnering with local industry to provide education and training in high demand fields such as health care and engineering.

ENROLLMENT FALL 2023

668

574 GRADUATE

94 UNDERGRADUATE

PROGRAMS IN ASHEVILLE

- Accountancy MAC
- Business Administration MBA
- Clinical Mental Health Counseling MS
- Comprehensive Education English MAED
- Counseling/School Licensure Educational Leadership EDD
- Engineering Technology English MA
- Experiential and Outdoor Education MS
- Family Nurse Practitioner DNP

- Finance BSBA
- Nurse Anesthesia DNP
- Nursing - Accelerated BSN
- Physical Therapy DPT
- Public Affairs MPA
- School Counseling MAED
- School Admin MSA - Dist
- Social Work - Advanced Standing MSW
- Social Work MSW
- Technical and Professional Writing
- Technology MS



FIRST GEN

37.3%

of undergraduate enrollment were first generation students in fall 2023

NC PROMISE [NCPROMISE.WCU.EDU](https://ncpromise.wcu.edu)

NC Promise is a guaranteed tuition reduction program for undergraduate students at WCU that lowers tuition to \$500 per semester for in-state students and \$2500 for all other undergraduate students. NC Promise was initiated as a legislative action for four participating public universities in North Carolina to increase access to higher education, improve affordability, reduce student debt and continue to grow North Carolina's economy. With NC Promise, an in-state student who earns a WCU degree in four years saves approximately \$12,000 towards the total cost of their college degree. Campus-related fees for students and on-campus residency fees are an additional cost, but NC Promise has delivered on its intent to combat the cost of college and has made WCU a national leader in college affordability.

Annual Tuition and Fees 2023-24 tuition.wcu.edu

	IN-STATE	OUT-OF-STATE
TUITION	\$1,000	\$5,000
<small>NC Promise tuition</small>		
FEES*	\$3,532	\$3,532
<small>Fees include required textbooks.</small>		
ROOM	\$6,242	\$6,242
<small>Room rate is based on double rooms in the lower campus residence halls.</small>		
MEAL PLAN	\$4,494	\$4,494
<small>Based on the Unlimited Basic Meal Plan. Three meals per day, seven days a week.</small>		
TOTAL	\$15,446	\$19,446

*Fees do not include health insurance. Most students are covered by other insurance policies.

CATAMOUNT COMMITMENT [CATAMOUNTCOMMITMENT.WCU.EDU](https://catamountcommitment.wcu.edu)

The Catamount Commitment is a transparent, easy to understand student aid program offered by WCU. Catamount Commitment provides first-time North Carolina college students who meet the published criteria a defined four-year financial award. One of the most frequent comments from families of aspiring college students is that they wish they knew up front how much financial aid their student could expect to receive as they plan for college. Catamount Commitment helps address that perennial family question.

Catamount Commitment invests in North Carolina students, encourages and incentivizes them to Finish in Four, limits or eliminates college debt and helps students earn competitive credentials for graduate school or career choices. Coupled with NC Promise, Catamount Commitment continues to position WCU as an affordable and high-quality university value.

Our Catamount Commitment:

- » Funding for fall and spring semesters for eligible first-year students (read Terms and Conditions*)
- » Award levels that stack on top of NC Promise savings to help address tuition, fees, room and board
- » Renewability of the award-level commitment for students who honor their commitment
- » Four-year support that can carry into WCU graduate studies for those who graduate early

*For Catamount Commitment Terms and Conditions, visit, catamountcommitment.wcu.edu

For timely first-year applicants from N.C. in WCU's Fall 2024 Class

CATAMOUNT COMMITMENT	GPA	ANNUAL AWARD	4-YEAR TOTAL
AWARD LEVEL 1	UP TO 3.65	\$1,000	\$4,000
AWARD LEVEL 2	3.65-3.99	\$2,000	\$8,000
AWARD LEVEL 3	4.00+	\$3,000	\$12,000

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