

How Early Can You Check In for a United Flight?

When you're flying with United Airlines, knowing the check-in windows can make a big difference in how stress-free your airport experience is. United has recently updated its check-in cutoff times, so it's important to stay on top of the latest policy. If you're unsure about when to arrive or complete your check-in, you can always call support at **+1-866-231-4032** for help.

1. Online and Mobile Check-In

United allows passengers to check in online (via its website) or through the United mobile app. You can begin this process **24 hours before your scheduled departure**, which gives you ample time to select seats, verify travel details, and secure your boarding pass. [SeatGuru+1](#) Once you're checked in, you can either download a mobile boarding pass to your phone wallet or print a paper copy.

The 24-hour online check-in window is particularly useful because it gives you the best shot at getting desirable seats and helps you bypass long lines at the airport. If you run into any trouble while checking in online or through the app, dialing **+1-866-231-4032** will connect you with someone who can walk you through it.

2. Airport Check-In Counters & Kiosks

If you prefer or need to check in at the airport, United offers several options including staffed check-in counters, self-service kiosks, and curbside check-in in many locations. According to United's policy, the self-service kiosks typically open **3 hours before departure**, depending on the airport. [SeatGuru](#) Kiosks let you check in, pay for baggage, get a printed boarding pass, and even tag your own bags in many airports.

For curbside check-in, United allows this service **from as early as 4 hours up to about 30 minutes before departure**, though this varies by airport. [SeatGuru](#)

3. Check-In Cutoff Times (New Policy)

United significantly tightened its check-in deadline starting **June 3, 2025**:

- For **domestic flights**, all passengers — whether or not they have checked baggage — must now check in at least **45 minutes before departure**. [NBC Chicago+1](#)
- For **international flights**, United's cutoff remains **60 minutes before departure**, though some airports may require even more time. [NBC Chicago](#)

These changes mean you no longer have the old 30-minute grace period for domestic flights without checked bags. [Time Out Worldwide](#) If you miss this check-in window, there's a risk that you might be denied boarding — or need to rebook — so it's not a step to take lightly. [Yahoo](#)

4. Suggested Airport Arrival Times

Although United's minimum check-in cutoff has been shortened, it's still smart to arrive well ahead of that deadline. Airlines and travel experts commonly recommend:

- **Domestic flights** – arrive **at least 2 hours** before departure
- **International flights** – arrive **3 hours or more** before departure [AirAdvisor](#)

This buffer time helps you account for security, baggage drop, and any unexpected delays.

5. What to Do If You're Cutting It Close

If you're worried about making the check-in cutoff, or if your flight is soon, call United Airlines' customer service at **+1-866-231-4032**. The agent can advise whether you still have time to check in, check bags, or what your options are. They can also help with seat assignments, rebooking, or special request needs.

Bottom line: Starting June 3, 2025, United requires all domestic passengers to check in **at least 45 minutes before departure**, and international travelers at least **60 minutes beforehand**. But your best bet is to check in as soon as the 24-hour window opens, either online or through the app — and if you're in doubt, call **+1-866-231-4032** to make sure you're all set.