

How to Measure for Military Uniform Special Measurement Orders



Prepared by DLA Troop Support * Clothing & Textiles
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Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Special Measurement Orders | 3 |
| Measuring Basics | 4 |
| Service Member Body Measurements | 5 |
| Height | 6 |
| Weight | 7 |
| Neck | 8 |
| Shoulder Circumference | 9 |
| Back Width | 10 |
| Back Waist Length | 11 |
| Back Coat Length | 12 |
| Sleeve Length | 13 |
| Arm Inseam | 14 |
| Bicep | 15 |
| Chest | 16 |
| Waist | 17 |
| Abdomen | 18 |
| Hips | 19 |
| Thigh | 20 |
| Leg Outseam | 21 |
| Leg Inseam | 22 |
| Seat | 23 |
| Shoulders | 24 |
| Posture | 25 |
| Feedback Form | 26 |

Special Measurement Orders

Military uniforms are manufactured in a full range of sizes designed to fit most people. For the occasion where a standard size garment cannot be used, DLA Troop Support provides Special Measurement garments made to fit the customer's individual body shape.

Before opting for a special measurement order, first have the Service member try on several standard sizes to determine if a standard size garment can be used. If a special measurement order is determined to be necessary, indicate the closest-fitting standard size on the request form, AND describe clearly how it is not fitting properly when worn. The request form for a special size garment can be found by the following steps:

1. Log in to DoD EMALL, <https://dod.emall.dla.mil/>
2. Search for your garment and add it to the cart.
3. Enter your cart and click on the link that says to “Enter Special Measurement Details”

To ensure that you are not logged out of the system because of measuring delays, please use the space provided on the page entitled Service Member Body Measurements to note the measurements until you can get to the computer to input them into the request form and submit.

Optional, but very helpful: Take a picture of the service member in the closest fitting standard size garment and email to the Special Measurement/CAD office, TrpSptC&T-Patterns@dla.mil. Service members do not need to show faces in these pictures if they choose not to. Please indicate the Control Number found on the submitted Special Measurement Request Form in the subject line of your email. Also, please provide a phone number of the actual service personnel that is in need of the garment. This will allow faster processing of the request and ability to fix any errors found.

For quality monitoring and process improvement, the Special Measurement/CAD office would appreciate a photograph of the special size garment on the service member once it is received, along with any feedback on the process, sent to the Special Measurement/CAD office, TrpSptC&T-Patterns@dla.mil. Please use feedback form included at the back this booklet.

An electronic version of this booklet can be found at the below web address:

<https://www.troopsupport.dla.mil/clothingandtextiles/specmeasforms.asp>

Measuring Basics

When taking measurements for a special size garment, it is important to take into account the following:

Posture:

- Stand tall with muscles relaxed and feet hip width apart (approximately 6”).

Clothing:

- Baggy or thick clothing interfere with accurate measuring. Ensure service member is wearing light, close fitting clothing. Similarly, chest measurements for women will be most accurate when wearing a well-fitting, unpadded bra.

Tools:

- Use a flexible metal measuring tape, as a cloth tape might stretch. Fiberglass or nylon tapes are good alternatives.

Technique:

- All measurements, except weight which is measured in pounds, should be taken in inches and SPECIFIED TO THE NEAREST ¼ INCH.
- When taking horizontal measurements, such as chest, waist, hips, etc., be sure to keep the tape parallel to the floor.
- When measuring, apply constant pressure to the tape (so it doesn't sag) without pinching the skin. Because the body is made of soft tissue, it can be a bit difficult to know exactly how tight to pull the tape around the body. The tape should be a bit snug, but not tight - it should not "dig in" or make an indentation in the body. It should not be loose, either. Just wrap the tape around the area of the body being measured and hold it in place. A finger should be able to be placed behind the tape, but no more than that.

Any questions on properly measuring for a specific garment should be directed to the Special Measurement/CAD office:

TrpSptC&T-Patterns@dla.mil

Service Member Body Measurements

Only measurements that are needed for the requested garment will appear in DoD EMALL. Please provide measurements for all fields requested.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Item: _____

Best Fitting standard Size: _____

What fits poorly when wearing this size: _____

Height (inches): _____ Bicep: _____

Weight (pounds): _____ Chest: _____

Neck: _____ Waist: _____

Shoulder Circumference: _____ Abdomen: _____

Back Width: _____ Hips: _____

Back Waist Length: _____ Thigh: _____

Back Coat Length: _____ Leg Outseam: _____

Sleeve Length Left: _____ Leg Inseam: _____

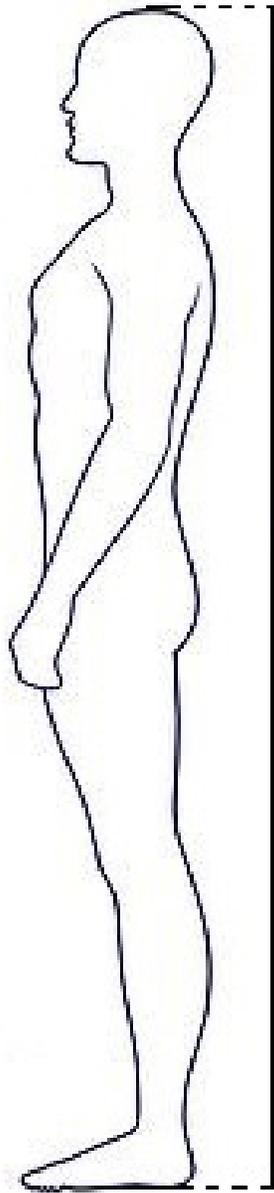
Sleeve Length Right: _____ Seat: _____

Arm Inseam Left: _____ Shoulders: _____

Arm Inseam Right: _____ Posture: _____

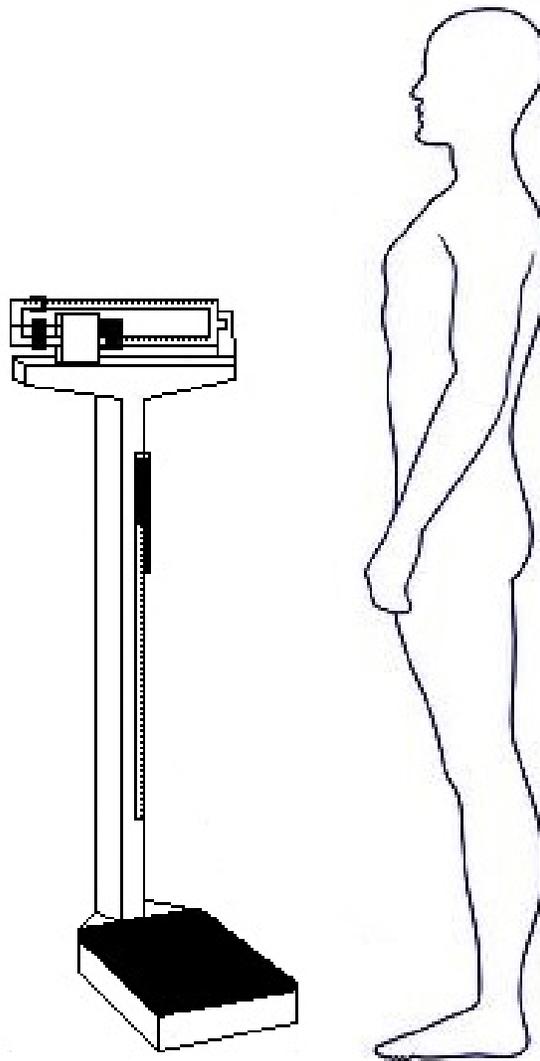
Notes:

Height



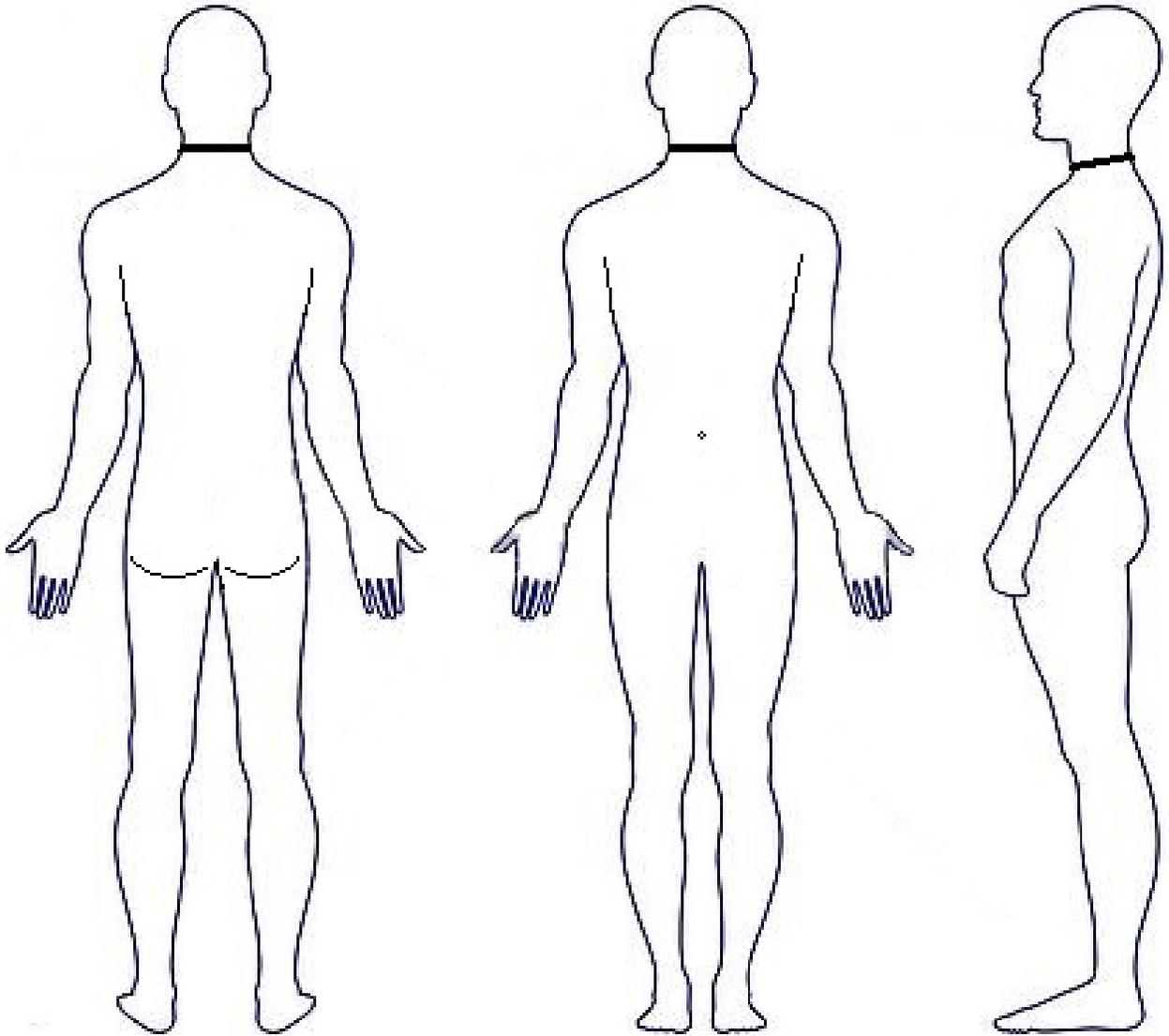
Measure the distance from the very top of the head to the bottom of the feet while standing tall with shoulders back.

Weight



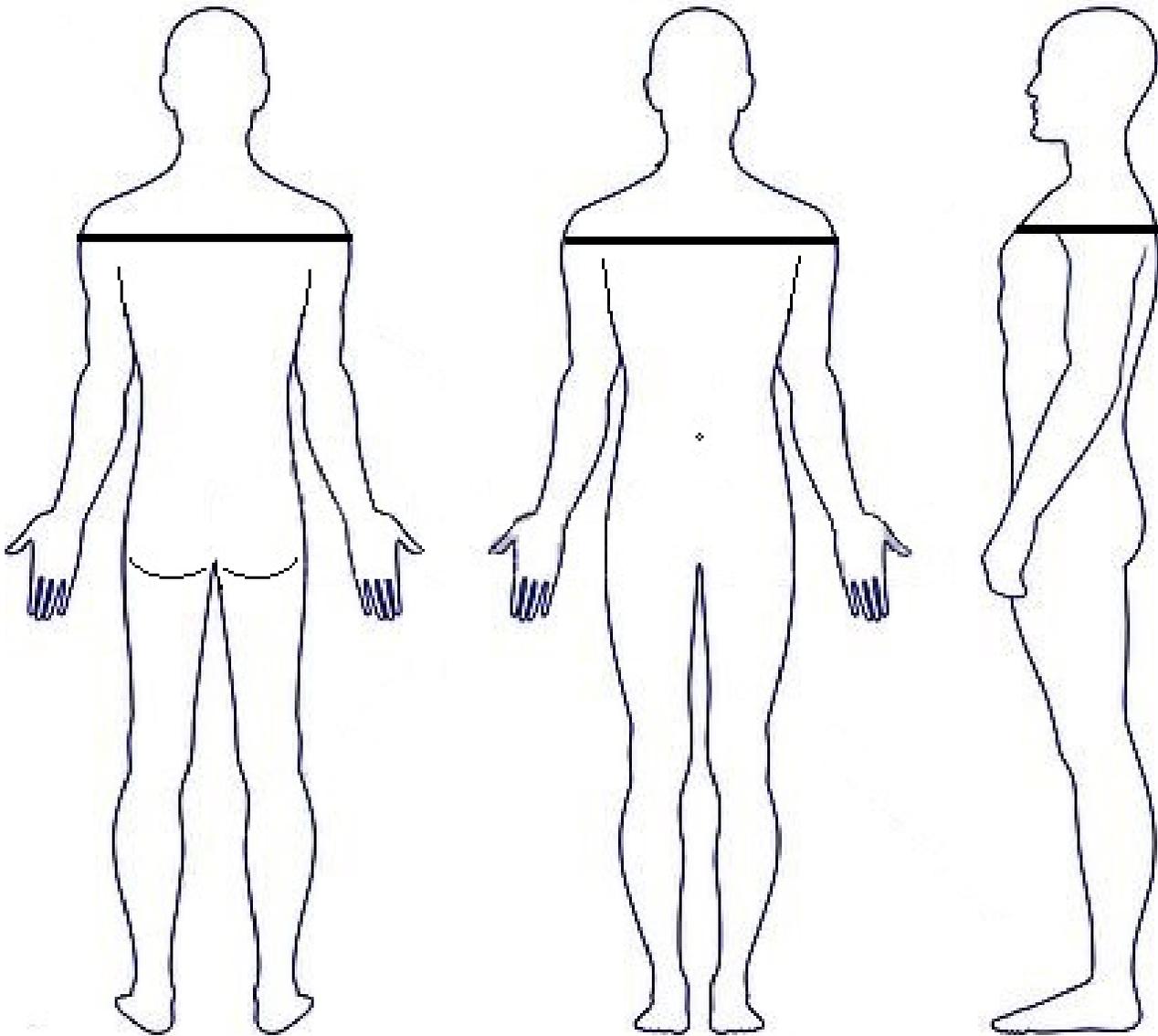
Measure weight by using an accurate scale. Evenly distribute weight on the scale and hold still while measurement is taken.
Ensure clothing is light and no shoes are worn.

Neck



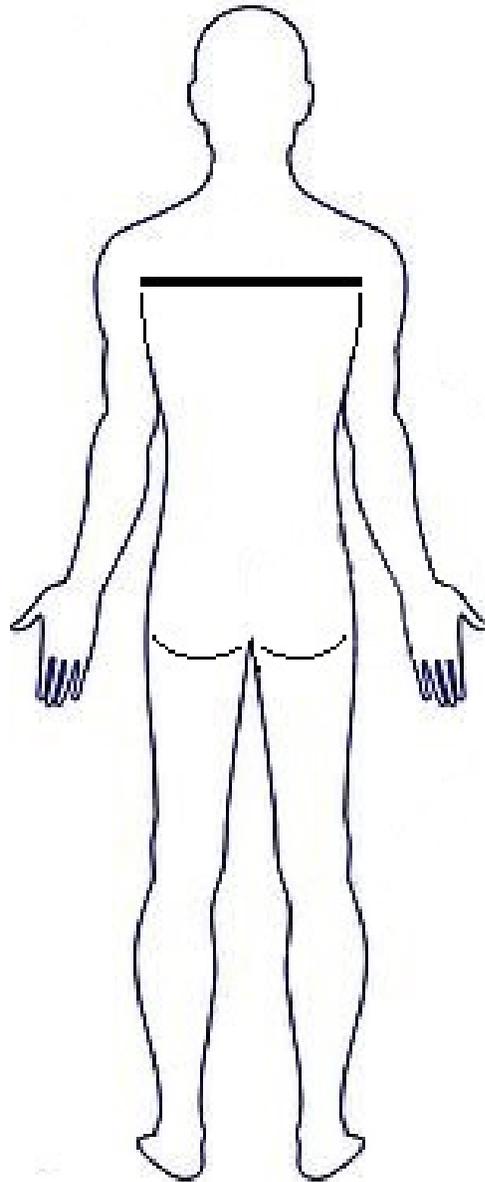
Measure the circumference around the center of the neck.

Shoulder Circumference



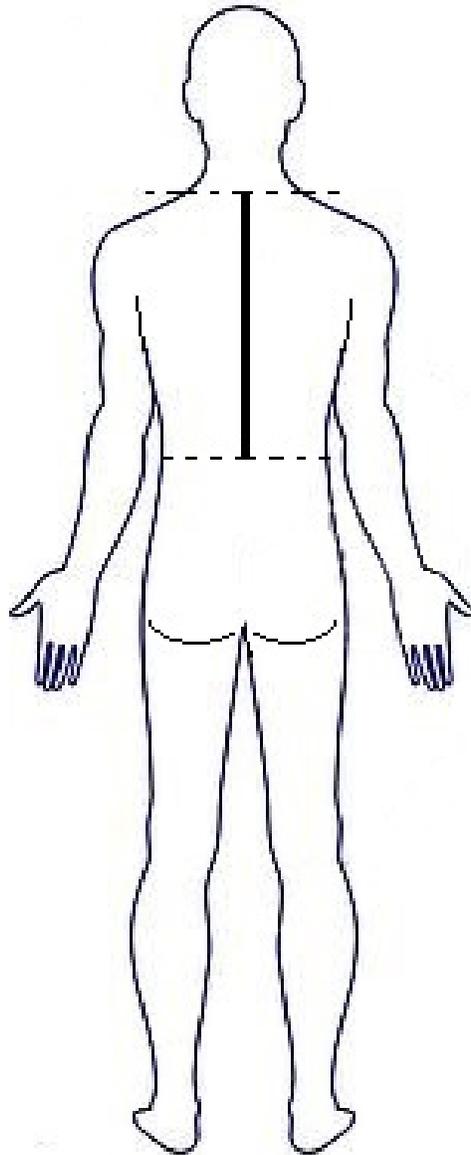
Measure the circumference around shoulders at their widest point.

Back Width



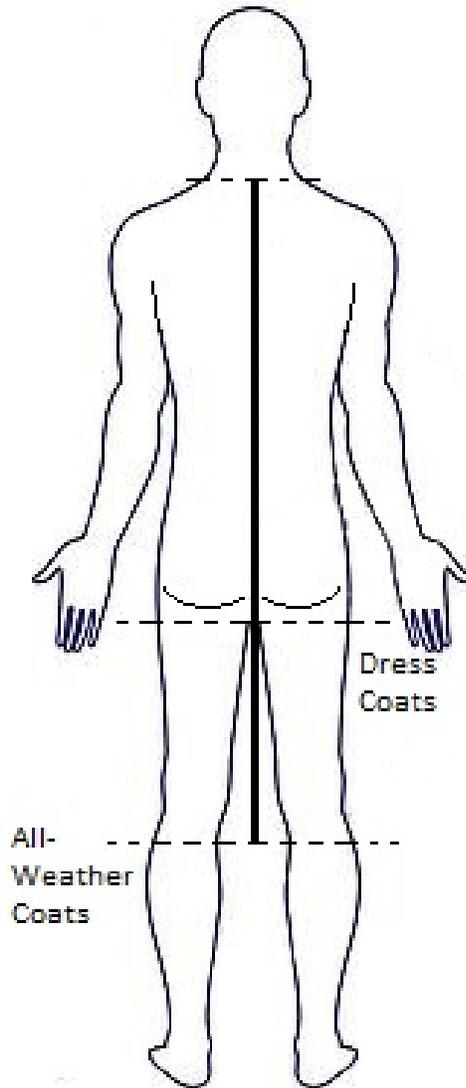
From behind, measure the distance from the very top most part of the armpit, across the back, to the other armpit.

Back Waist Length



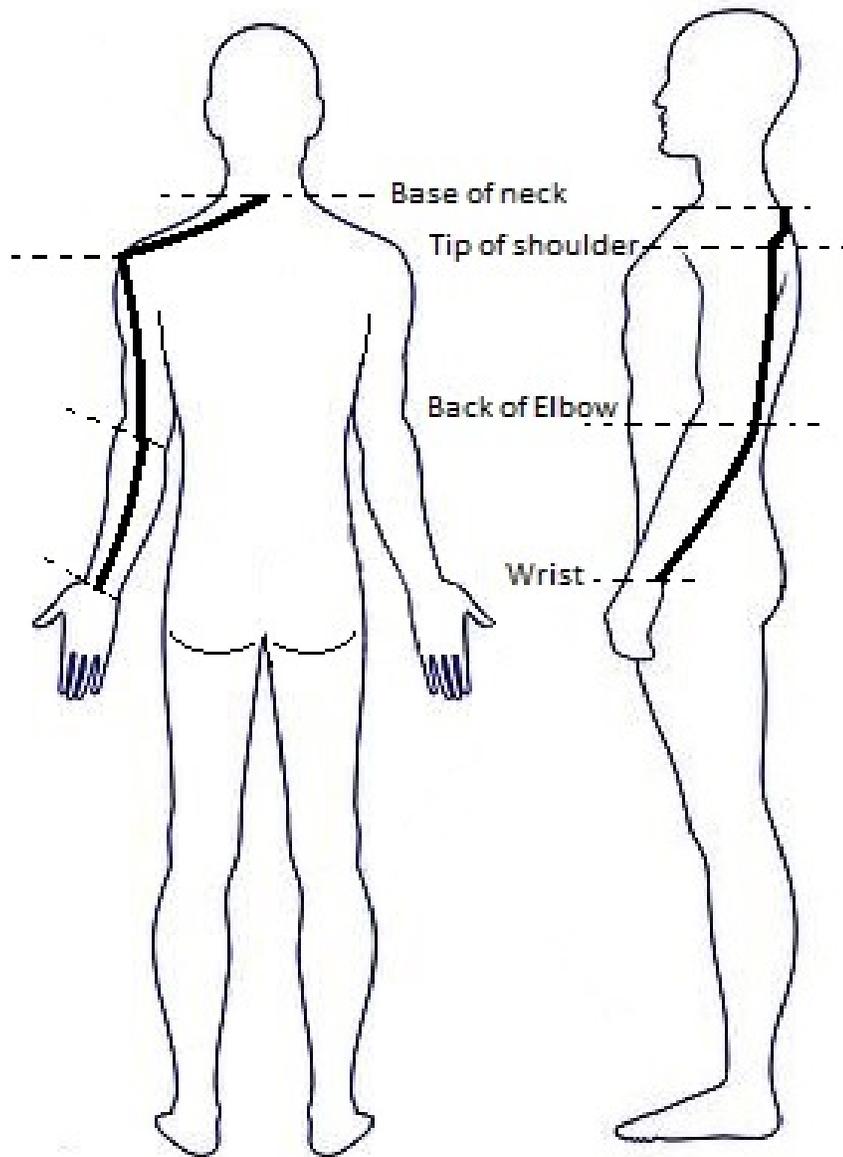
Measure from the base of the neck (in the center, not the side),
to the center of the waistline.

Back Coat Length



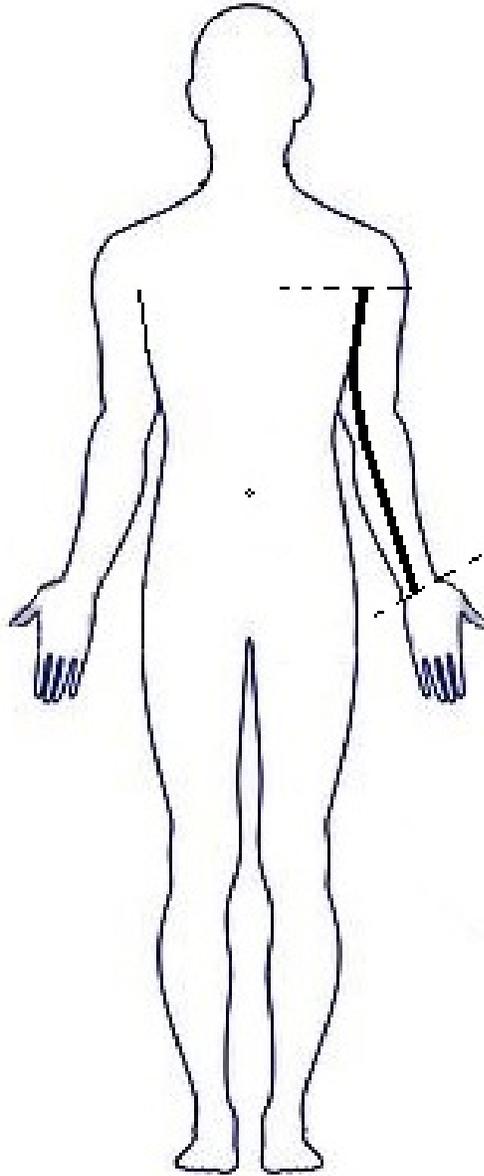
Measure from the base of the neck (in the center, not the side), to the center of where the desired length of coat should fall, per the design of the coat. For dress coats, this is just near the break at the bottom of the seat or about midway on the fingers where one would cup them. For all-weather coats, the coat must be long enough to reach the bottom of the kneecap for males, and 1 inch below for females. It must not extend below the mid-calf.

Sleeve Length



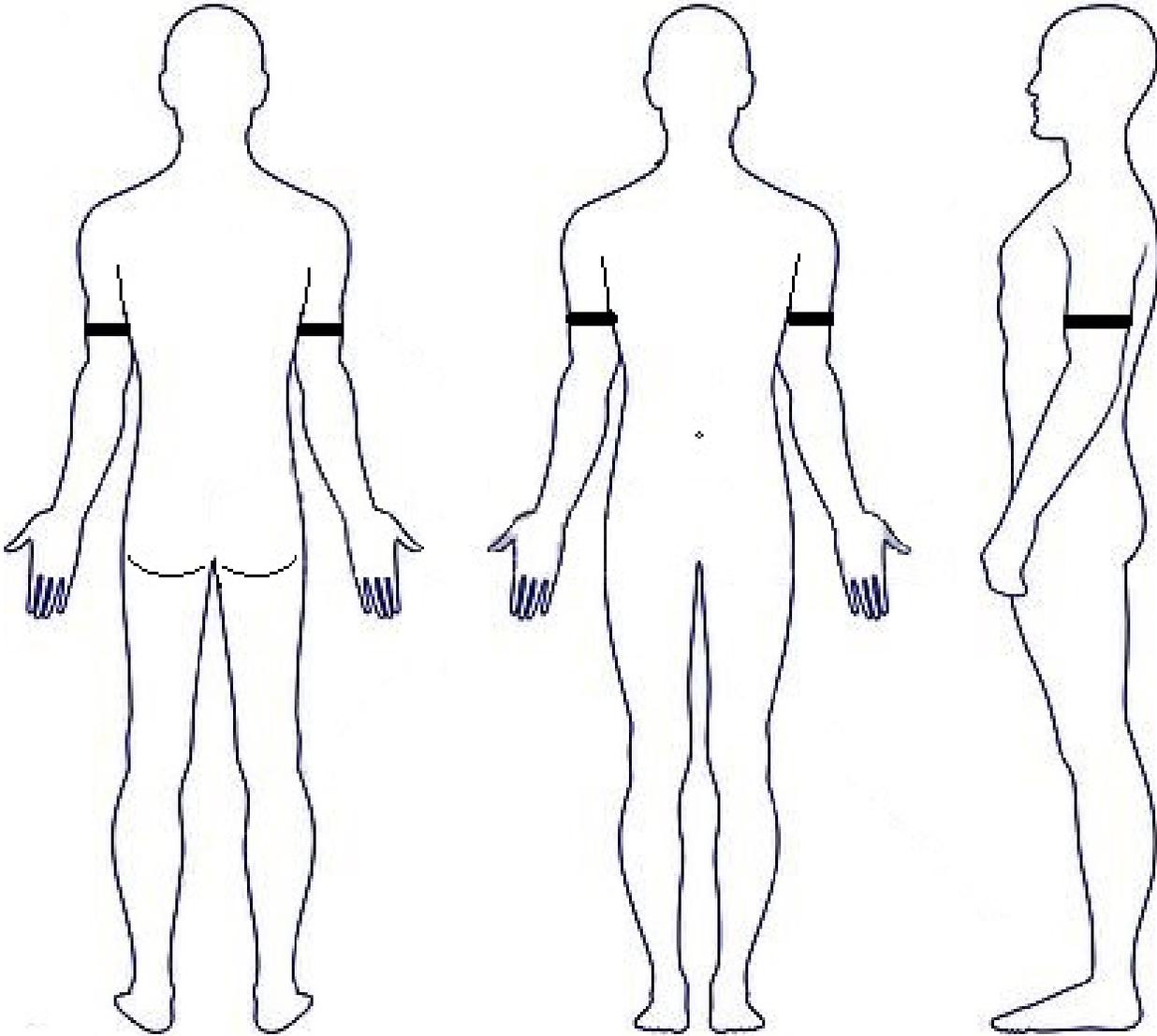
Slightly bend the elbow (elbow should not be bent more than a 90-degree angle). Measure from behind. Start at the middle of the base of the neck to the shoulder, down the back of the arm to the back of the elbow, and then on to the wrist.

Arm Inseam



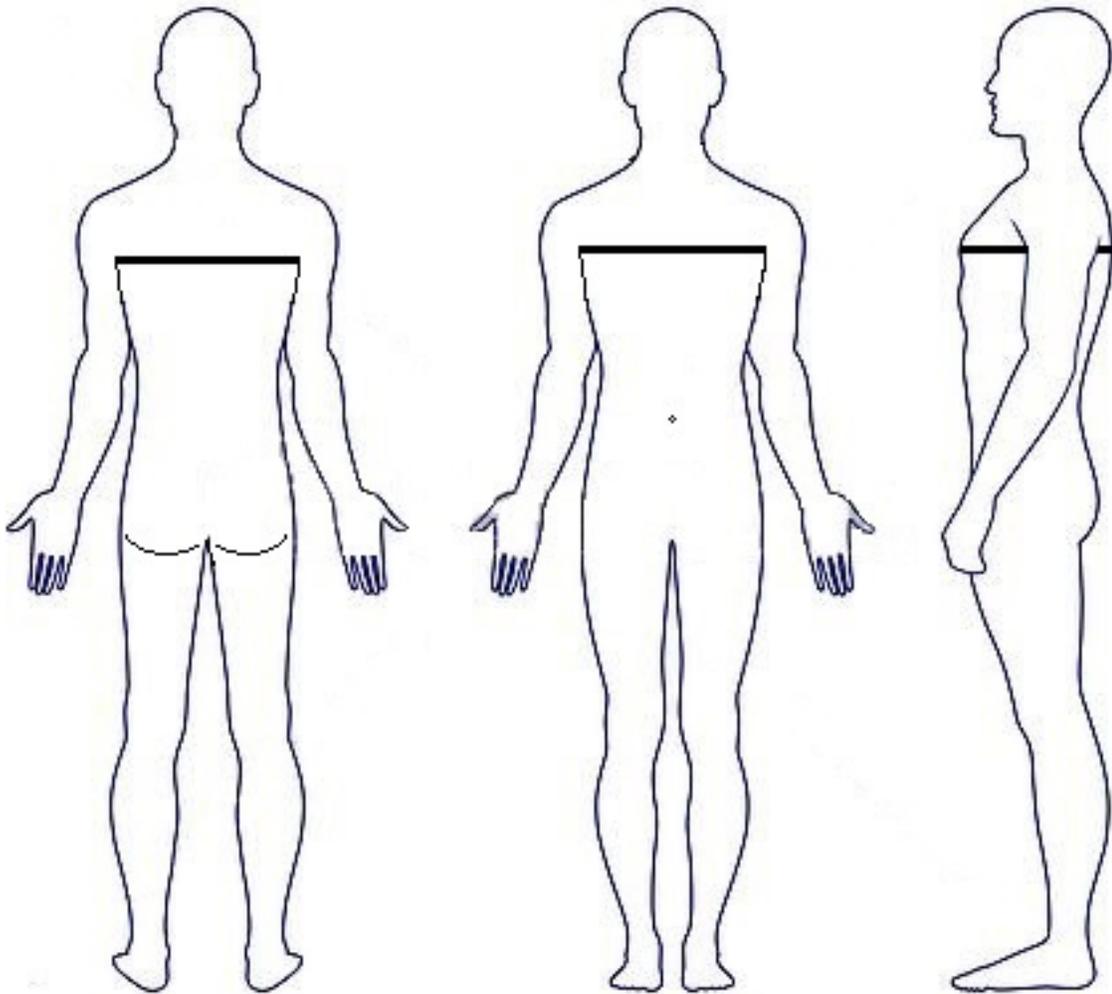
With arm down at the side, measure the distance from the uppermost inside of the armpit, down the inside of the arm, to the wrist.

Bicep



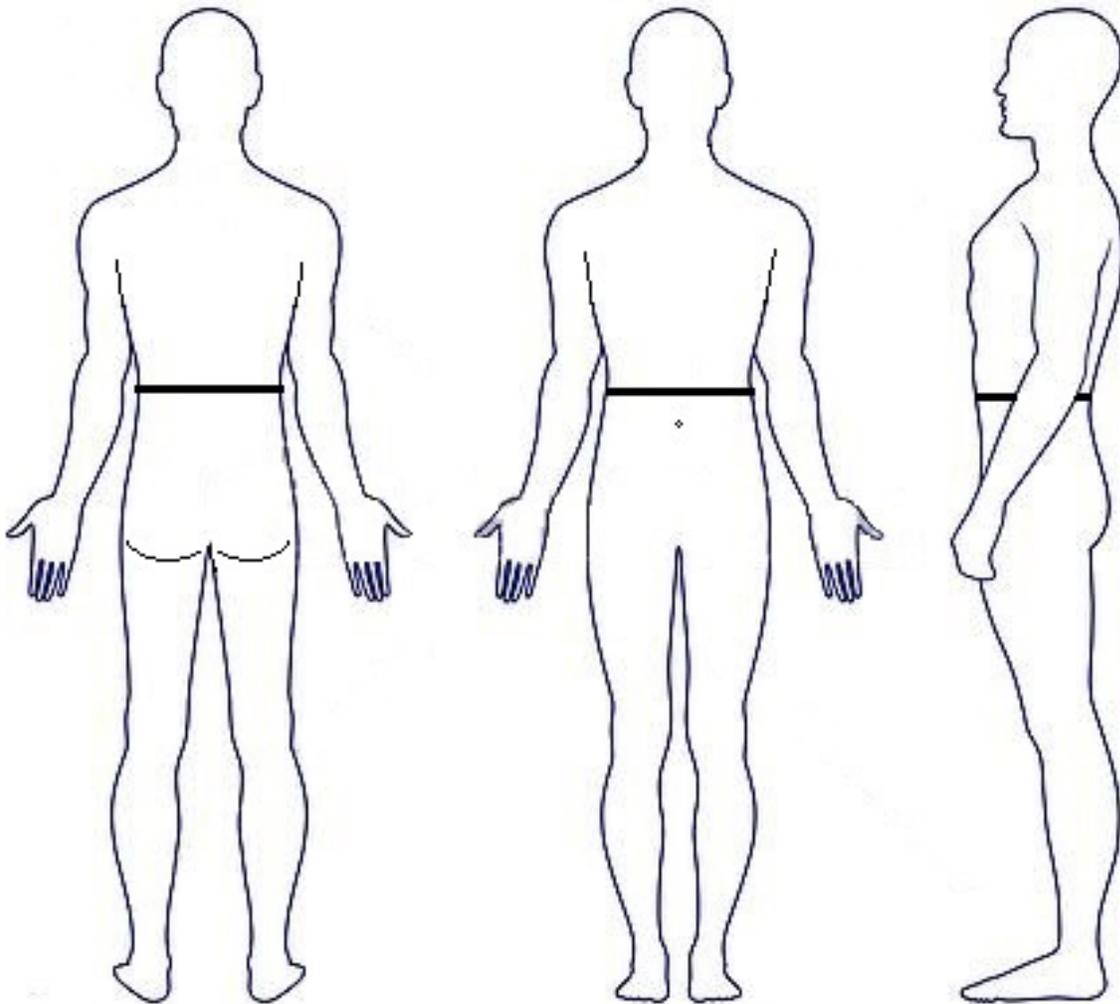
Measure the circumference of the upper arm. Wrap the tape measure around the widest part of the upper arm from front to back and around to the start point.

Chest



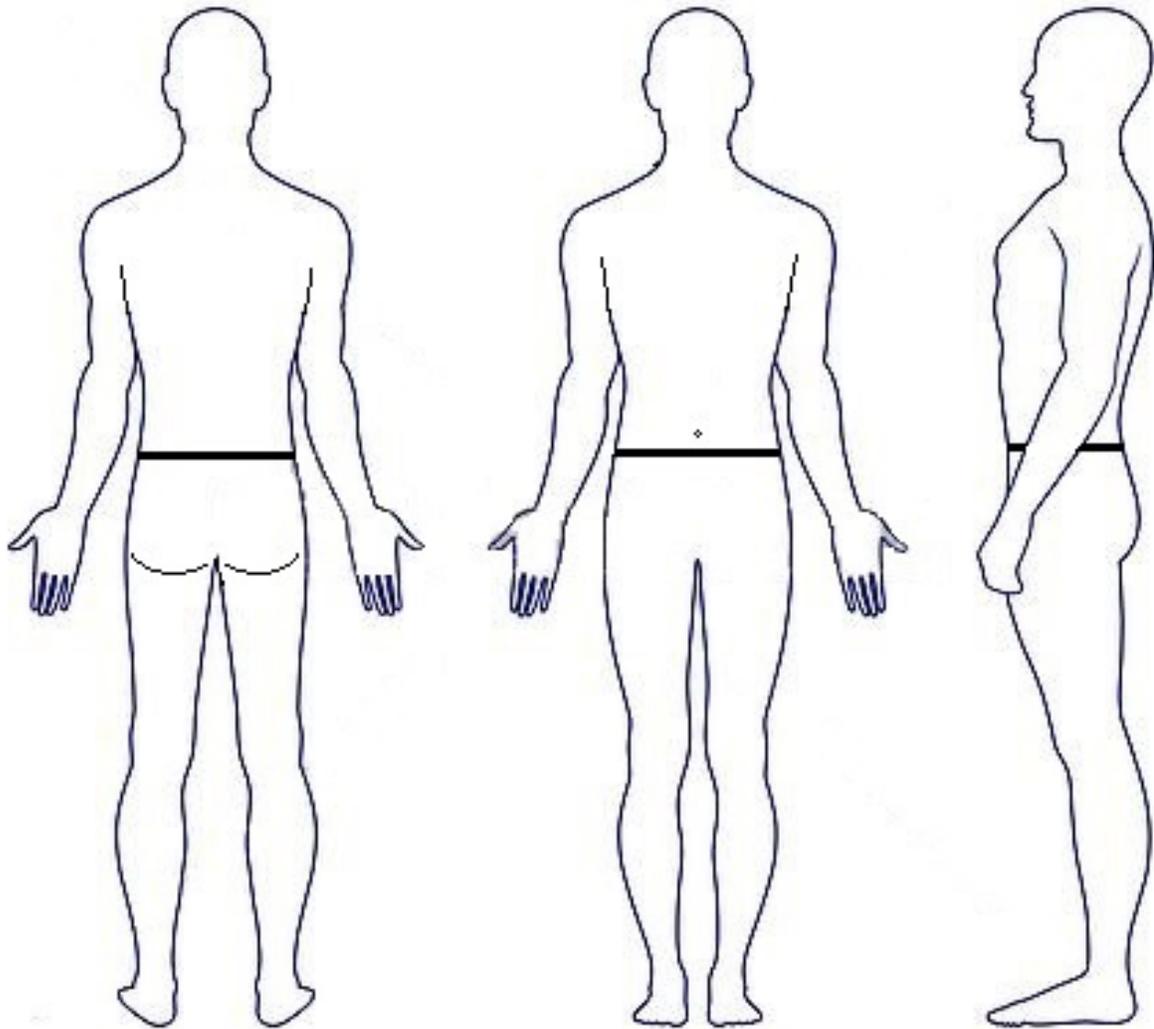
Measure the circumference around the chest at its widest point. For most men this will be at the armpits, for most women this will be at the fullest part of the bust. Place one end of the tape measure at the fullest part, wrap it around (under the armpits, around the shoulder blades, and back to the front) to get the measurement.

Waist



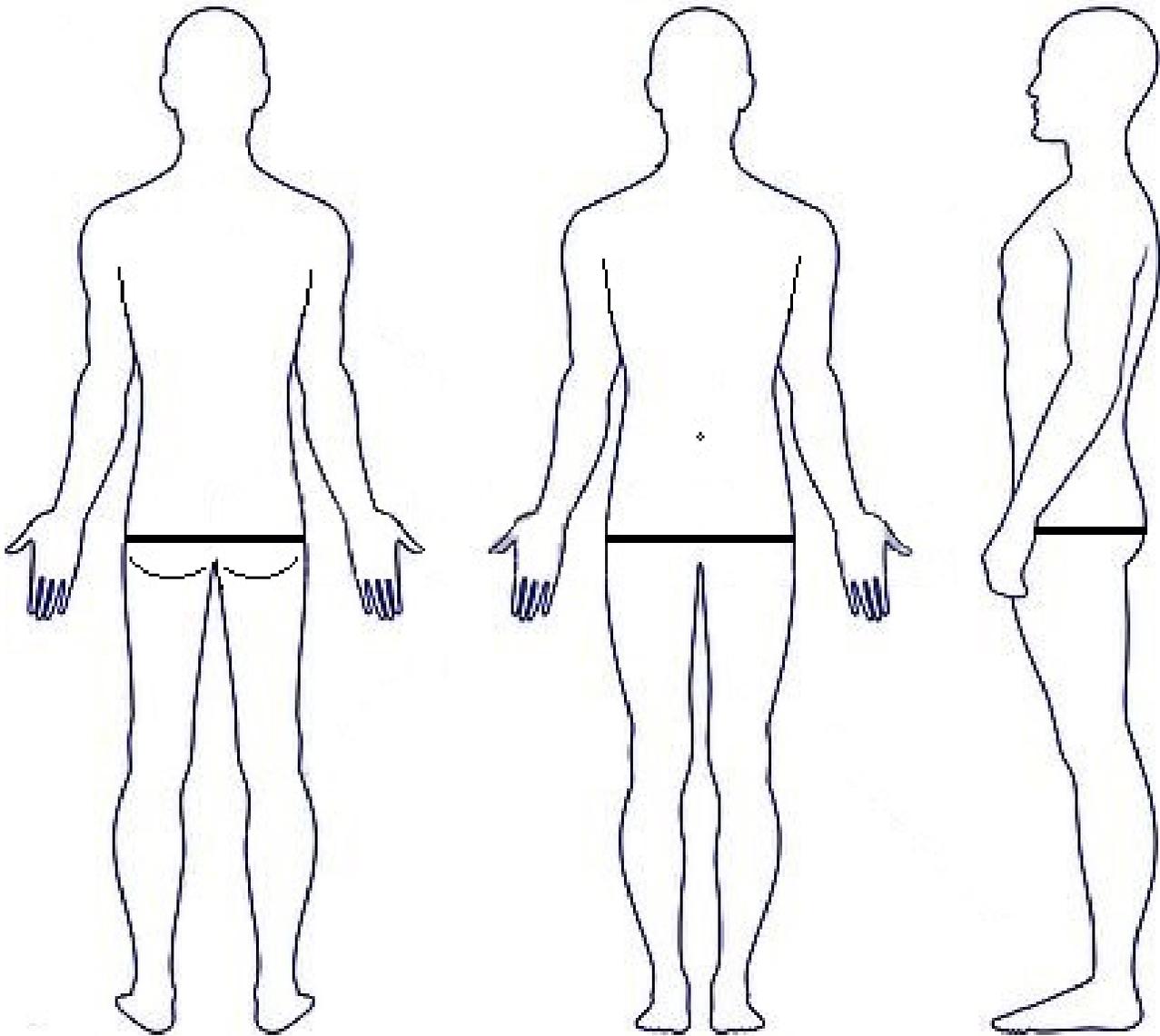
Measure the circumference of the waist. Use the tape measure to circle the waist (like a belt would) at the narrowest part of the natural waistline, which is located above the naval and below the rib cage. When bending to the side, the crease that forms is the natural waistline. Don't suck in stomach, as this would result in a false measurement. This measurement is best taken mid-breath.

Abdomen



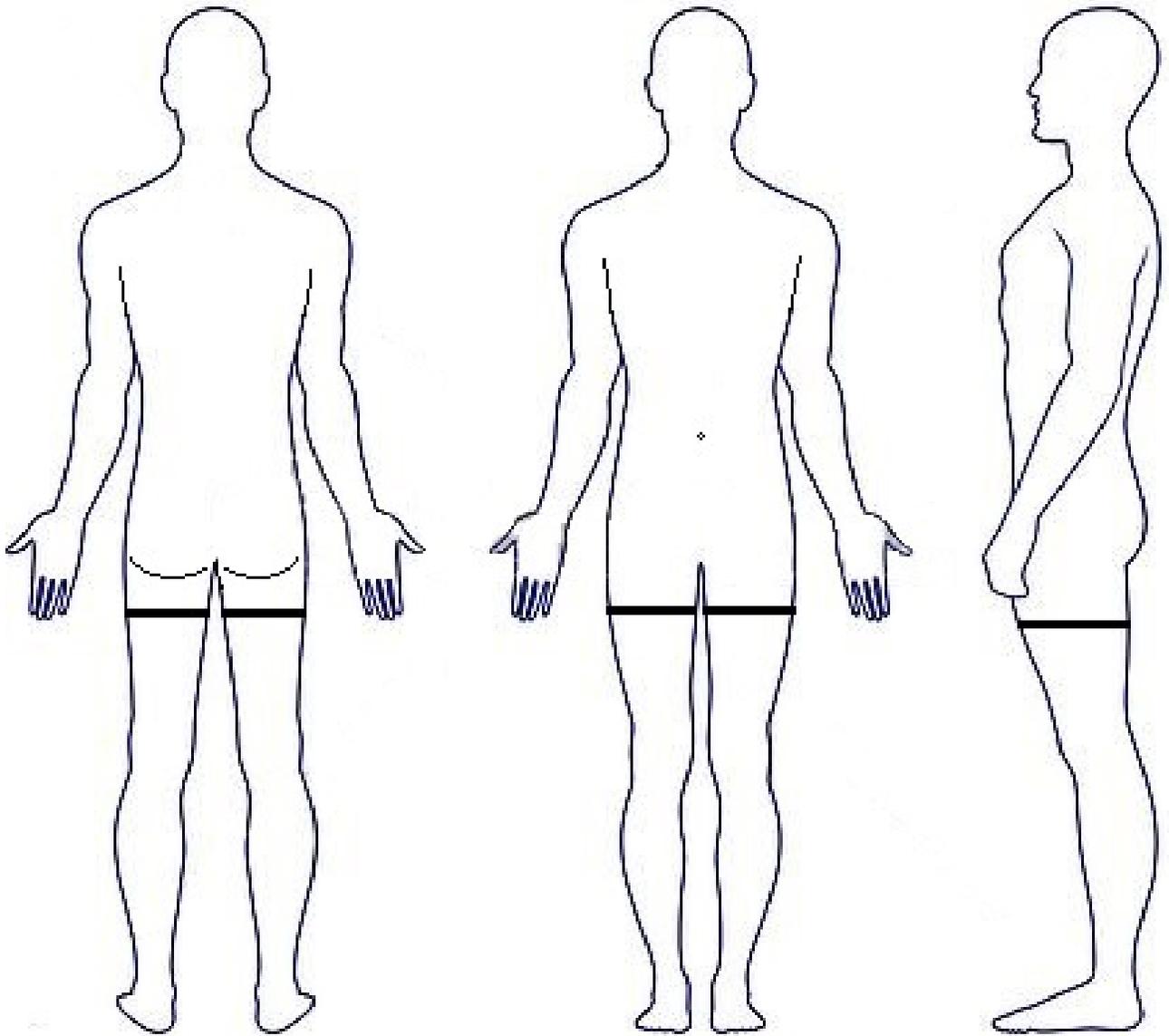
Measure the circumference of abdomen. Use the tape measure to circle the abdomen like a belt would. The abdomen is located below the navel and above the hips, which is where men usually wear the top of their pants. Don't suck in stomach, as this would result in a false measurement. This measurement is best taken mid-breath.

Hips



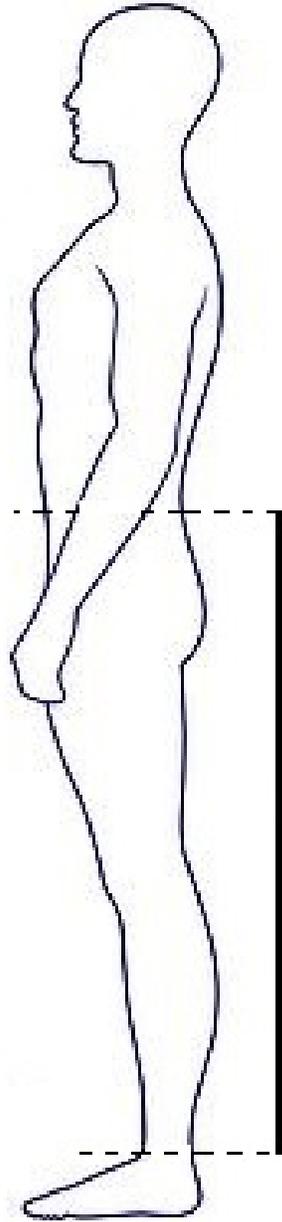
Measure the circumference around hips at the widest point. This will usually be roughly just above the crotch line. Start at one hip and wrap the tape measure around the seat, around the other hip, and back to start. Make sure the tape is over the largest part of the seat.

Thigh



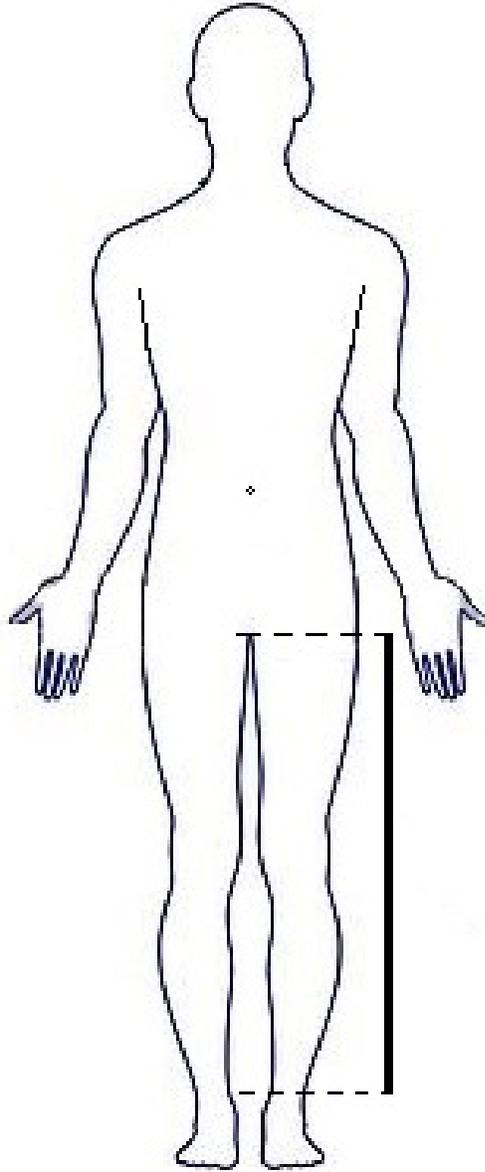
Measure the circumference of the fullest part of the thigh. This may not be the very center of thigh. Wrap the tape measure around the thigh from front to back and then around to the front.

Leg Outseam



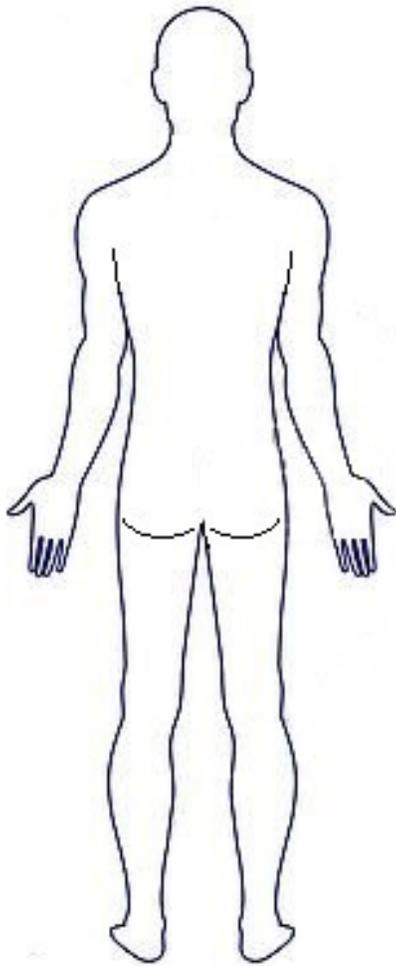
Measure the distance from the waist, along the outside of the leg, to the desired length of the pant at the bottom of the ankle.

Leg Inseam

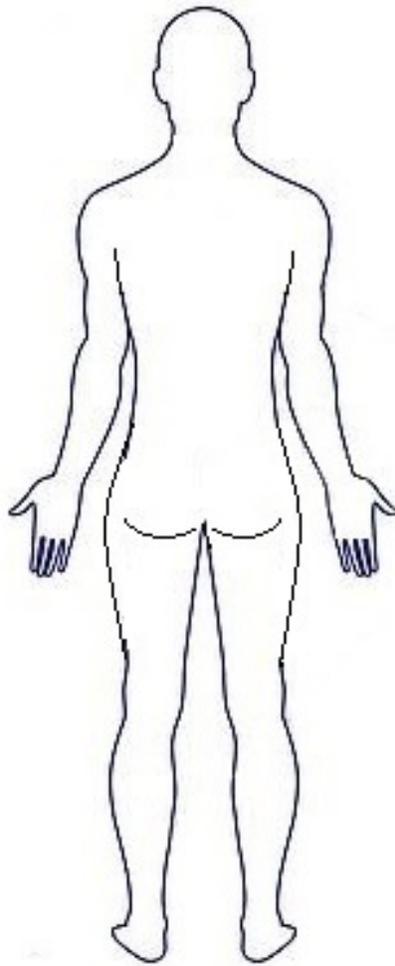


Measure the distance from the uppermost inner part of the thigh, along the inside of the leg, to the desired length of the pant at the bottom of the ankle.

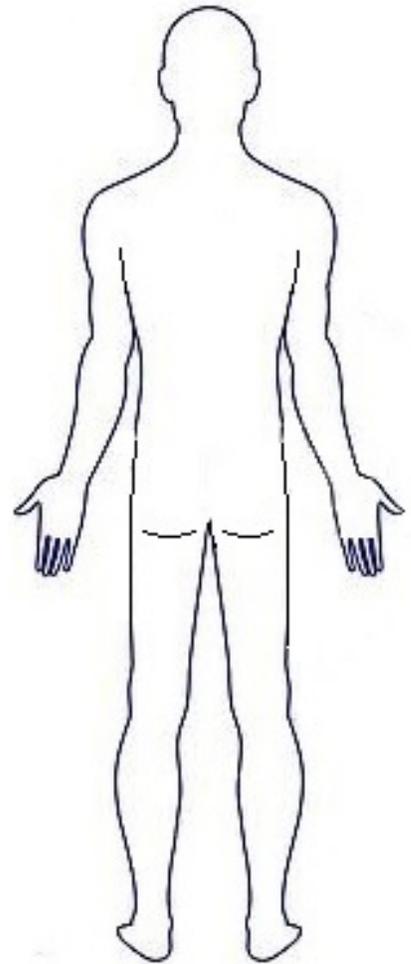
Seat



Normal

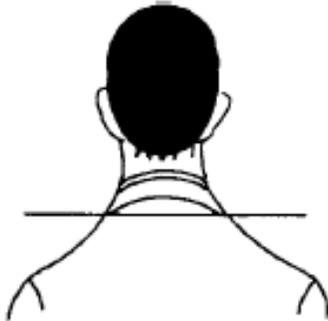


Full

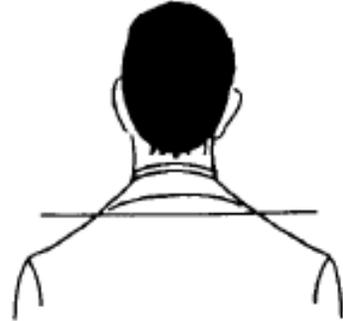


Flat

Shoulders



Sloping (Long Neck)



Regular (Regular Neck)



Square (Medium Neck)



High (Short Neck)

Posture



Normal



Erect



Forward/Stooped



Half-Stout



Stout



Corpulent

