A long cardigan with straight trousers for a cold office

Office-layer outfit formula • Free, no signup or purchase.

Plan a cold-office outfit around straight trousers, a simple top and a long open-front cardigan. Measure the cardigan length, test it at your desk, and plan a coat for the commute, since a lightweight knit is not a promise of warmth. The free office-layer outfit formula keeps the pieces and checks together.

You need

- Straight trousers you can sit and walk in
- A simple base top
- A long or hip-length cardigan you own or are considering
- The coat you wear for the commute
- A flexible measuring tape
- The free office-layer outfit formula (PDF) printed on US Letter paper, and a pen

1 Begin with the trousers and base

Choose straight trousers you can sit and walk in comfortably and a simple base top. Write their colors on the sheet so the cardigan can repeat one of them.

2 Check the cardigan length

Put the cardigan on open and measure from the top of your shoulder to its hem. Note whether it ends at the hip, the upper thigh or lower. If you are buying, compare that number with the length in the seller's size chart, not the product photo.

3 Test it at your desk

Sit at your desk, type, reach for the phone and carry your usual bag. Check that the sleeves stay clear of the keyboard and that the cardigan edges do not catch on the chair or the bag strap.

4 Plan the commute layer

Try the cardigan under your coat and note whether the sleeves bunch. Check the cardigan's fabric on its label or listing; a lightweight knit is not a promise of insulation.

Tips

- Choose a cardigan color that repeats the trousers or the top so the outfit works with shoes you already own.
- If the office temperature changes during the day, note which layer you add or remove and when.

Important

Optional Amazon links are affiliate links. Check the current product dimensions, color, fabric and return terms before buying. Other pictured pieces are separate; the illustration is an AI concept.

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1. Outfit formula

Piece	Color / item
Trousers	
Base top	
Cardigan	
Shoes	
Commute coat	

2. Cardigan length

Measurement	Inches / cm
Shoulder to cardigan hem (worn)	
Size-chart length (if buying)	

3. Desk test (tick when it passes)

- ☐ Typing: sleeves clear of the keyboard
- ☐ Sitting: edges do not catch on the chair
- ☐ Bag strap does not drag the cardigan
- ☐ Under the coat: no sleeve bunching

4. Decision

Outfit I will wear _____

One change for next time _____

Extra writing space

Planning aid. Check the size chart and the care label of the garment you choose.