Deciding what to do after graduation can be a difficult decision. Graduate school, work force, or alternative options are all there – but which to choose? This handout provides a brief overview of different options for a recent graduate of the Public Health & Health Sciences program. The information in this handout is not comprehensive, however, it provides a variety of options our office has encountered through working with students, speaking to professionals, and researching online.
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Position Titles

Community Health Worker

Possible Duties:

- Assist individuals and communities to adopt healthy behaviors
- Conduct outreach for medical personnel or health organizations to implement programs in the community that promote, maintain, and improve individual and community health
- Provide information on available resources, provide social support and informal counseling, advocate for individuals and community health needs, and provide services such as first aid and blood pressure screening
- Collect data to help identify community health needs
- Serve as a liaison between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

**CHW certification will increase competitiveness**

Possible Places of Employment:

- Hospitals & Care Clinics
  - Myrtle Hilliard Davis Comprehensive Health Centers, Inc. (St. Louis, MO/Community Health Worker)
  - KC Care Clinic (Kansas City, MO/Community Health Worker)
  - Oak Street Health (Chicago, IL/Community Outreach Associate)
  - Howard Brown Health Center (Chicago, IL/PrEP Community Engagement Specialist)
- Non-profit Organizations
  - Heartland Alliance (Chicago, IL/Community Health Worker)
- State and Local Government
  - State of Missouri (Adult Protective And Community Worker I – II)
  - City of Springfield (Springfield, MO/Community Health Advocate)

Environmental Health Specialist

Possible Duties:

- Advise communities or institutions regarding health or safety issues.
- Inspect work environments to ensure safety.
- Design public or employee health programs.

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Conduct health or safety training programs.
Test facilities for environmental hazards.
Collaborate with healthcare professionals to plan or provide treatment.
Consult with others regarding safe or healthy equipment or facilities.
Prepare healthcare training materials.
Develop emergency procedures.
Monitor the handling of hazardous materials or medical wastes.
Maintain inventory of medical supplies or equipment.
Analyze laboratory specimens to detect abnormalities or other problems

**EHS certification can increase competitiveness

Possible Places of Employment

- **State and Local Government**
  - Johnson County Community Health Services (Warrensburg, MO/Environmental Public Health Specialist)
  - State of Missouri (Jefferson City, MO/Environmental Specialist)

- **Manufacturing Companies**
  - Reichhold, Inc. (Valley Park, MO/EHS Specialist)
  - Federal-Mogul Motorparts (Maryville, MO & Chicago, IL/Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator)

**Health Educator**

Possible Duties:
- Plan programs to address community health issues.
- Present social services program information to the public.
- Develop working relationships with others to facilitate program activities.
- Provide educational materials to community members.
- Supervise workers providing client or patient services.
- Maintain social services program records.
- Assess individual or community needs for educational or social services.
- Advise others on social or educational issues.
- Develop tools to diagnose or assess needs.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of counseling or educational programs

**CHES certification may be required or will increase competitiveness

Possible Places of Employment:

- **Hospitals and Clinics**
  - Howard Brown Health (Chicago, IL/Health Educator)
  - Erie Family Health Center (Chicago, IL/Community Health Educator)

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Non-Profit Organizations
- Heartland Alliance (Chicago, IL / Oral Health Educator)

State and Local Government
- State of Missouri (Jefferson City, MO / Health Educator I-II)

Outreach & Prevention Coordinator/Specialist

Possible Duties:
- Advise communities or institutions regarding health or safety issues.
- Inspect work environments to ensure safety.
- Design public or employee health programs.
- Conduct health or safety training programs.
- Test facilities for environmental hazards.
- Collaborate with healthcare professionals to plan or provide treatment.
- Consult with others regarding safe or healthy equipment or facilities.
- Prepare healthcare training materials.
- Develop emergency procedures.
- Monitor the handling of hazardous materials or medical wastes.
- Maintain inventory of medical supplies or equipment.
- Analyze laboratory specimens to detect abnormalities or other problems.

Possible Places of Employment
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation (Chicago, IL / Youth Prevention Specialist/Facilitator)
- Test Positive Aware Network (Chicago, IL / HIV Prevention & Outreach Specialist)

Health Clinics
- KC Care Clinic (Kansas City, MO / Prevention Coordinator)
- Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health (Poplar Bluff, MO / Community Prevention Specialist)

Patient Navigator/Advocate

Possible Duties:
- Provide patient education
- Develop local Patient Advocacy opportunities
- Foster dialogue between patient and health care provider
- Application and documentation processes

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Monitor status of cases
- Provide support and assistance to the client
- Screen patients for medical assistance program eligibility
- Empower patients
- Submit forms to appropriate agencies
- Liaison between patients, clients, and outside agencies

Possible Places of Employment:
- Hospitals & Clinics
  - Mercy (St. Louis Area/Navigator)
  - Planned Parenthood (St. Louis, MO/ Navigator)
- Non-profit Organization
  - American Cancer Society (Various Locations/Patient Navigator)
  - Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force (Chicago, IL/Patient Navigator)

Patient Services Coordinator/Representative

Possible Duties:
- Effectively communicate with patients about their questions or concerns relating to their health and payment
- Coordinate scheduling, events, and appointments
- Organize special events and outings that are of interest
- Provide enrollment assistance in insurance/financial assistance programs
- Work with patients and billing staff to troubleshoot and resolve billing issues
- Assist patients with related medical/health concerns and inquiries
- Make a positive first impression with patients, in person and on the phone
- Maintain files, records, and accounts
- Operate office equipment
- Be able to explain medical terms to patients

Possible Places of Employment:
- Hospitals and Clinics
  - Northwestern Medicine (Chicago, IL/Client Services Coordinator – Executive Health Program)
  - Howard Brown Health (Chicago, IL/Patient Service Representative)
  - PrimeCare Community Health (Chicago, IL/Patient Access & Enrollment Specialist)
  - Mercy (Various Locations in Missouri/Patient Services Representative)
- Non-Profit Organization

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- AIDS Foundation of Chicago (Chicago, IL/ Medical Benefits Specialist)
- **State and Local Government**
  - State of Missouri (Jefferson City, MO/Medicaid Specialist)

**Program Coordinator/Manager**

**Possible Duties:**
- Recruit, develop, organize, and manage events
- Implement annual events and develop new ones based on need and resources
- Market the organization through providing information and positive relationships with the community
- Focus on details of activities
- Possible fundraising
- Act as a liaison between community and company
- Effective communication and follow up
- Provide reports, both written and oral

**Possible Places of Employment:**
- **Hospitals and Health Centers**
  - Cox Health (Kansas City & Springfield, MO/ Project Coordinator)
  - Oak Street Health (Chicago, IL/ Clinical Program Manager)
  - Planned Parenthood
- **Social Services**
  - YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago (Chicago, IL/ Program Coordinator – Urban Warriors)
  - SGA Youth & Family Services (Chicago, IL/ Program Coordinator – Midwest Health Start)

**Research Assistant/Coordinator**

**Possible Duties:**
- Collect, abstract, and enter study data.
- Coordinate all participating entities and study activities.
- Prepare and submit reports to sponsors.
- Perform surveys, interviews, observations or use other methods according to established research protocols.
- Collect, process, and analyze data. Summarize research and test results.
- May assist with study protocol development.
Coordinate the ordering, inventory and maintenance of equipment, instruments and data collection and analysis tools.

Prepare and contribute statistical data and pertinent information for papers, grants and other documents.

Complete required documentation for regulatory agencies.

**Previous research experience may be required or will increase competitiveness**

Possible Places of Employment:

- **Academia**
  - Washington University – Center for Public Health Systems Science (St. Louis, MO/R
    search Assistant/Public Health Research Coordinator)
  - University of Kansas Medical Center (Kansas City, MO/R
    search Assistant)

- **Hospitals and Clinics**
  - Truman Medical Centers – Jackson County Health Department (Kansas City, MO/Epidemiology Specialist)

- **State and Local Government**
  - State of Missouri (Jefferson City, MO/Research Analyst I-II)

**Social Services Case Manager**

Possible Duties:

- Counsel clients or patients with substance abuse issues.
- Counsel clients regarding interpersonal issues.
- Advise clients or community groups on health issues.
- Advocate for individual or community needs.
- Interview clients to gather information about their backgrounds, needs, or progress.
- Maintain client records.
- Write reports or evaluations.
- Help clients get needed services or resources.
- Refer clients to community or social service programs.
- Refer individuals to educational or work programs.
- Evaluate potential problems in home or work environments of clients.
- Collaborate with other professionals to assess client needs or plan treatments.
- Confer with family members to discuss client treatment plans or progress.
- Supervise workers providing client or patient services. **These jobs tend to prefer a Social Work degree but are sometimes open to a related degree.**

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This is where your class choices, extracurricular activities, part time jobs, and volunteering can help you be a good candidate.

**Possible Places of Employment**

- **Social Services**
  - True North of Columbia Inc. (Columbia, MO/ Domestic Violence Shelter Case Manager)
  - ReDiscover (Lee's Summit, MO/ Clinical Case Manager)
  - Salvation Army (Various Locations/Pathways Case Manager)

- **State and Local Government**
  - State of Missouri (Jefferson City, MO/Social Services Manager)
  - Development Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County (Saint Charles, MO/Care Case Manager)

**Wellness Coordinator /Health Coach**

**Possible Duties:**

- Manage or oversee fitness or recreation facilities, ensuring safe and clean facilities and equipment.
- Provide individual support or counseling in general wellness or nutrition.
- Conduct health risk assessments to determine interest in, or satisfaction with, health and wellness programs, events, or services.
- Develop or coordinate fitness and wellness programs or services.
- Prepare or implement budgets and strategic, operational, purchasing, or maintenance plans.
- Track cost-containment strategies and programs to evaluate effectiveness.
- Maintain wellness- and fitness-related schedules, records, or reports.
- Develop fitness or wellness classes.
- Hire and supervise contractors, such as event hosts or health, fitness, and wellness practitioners.
- Recommend or approve new program or service offerings to promote wellness and fitness, produce revenues, or minimize costs.
- Develop marketing campaigns to promote a healthy lifestyle or participation in fitness or wellness programs.
- Track attendance, participation, or performance data related to wellness events.
Possible Places of Employment:

- **Corporate Companies**
  - Interactive Health (Chicago, IL & Austin, TX/ Wellness Program Coordinator/Health Coach)
  - Provant Health Solutions (California, MO (various locations)/ Health Coach)

- **Recreational Centers/Gyms**
  - YMCA (Various Locations/ Healthy Living Coach/Health and Wellness Coordinator/ Wellness Specialist)

- **Hospitals & Health Centers**
  - Mercy (Springfield, MO/Health and Wellness Coordinator)
  - Saint Luke Health System (Kansas City, MO/ Wellness Coordinator)
  - Premise Health (St. Joseph, MO/Wellness Coordinator)

Youth Care Worker

Possible Duties:

- Write reports or evaluations.
- Maintain social services program records.
- Present social services program information to the public.
- Refer clients to community or social service programs.
- Visit individuals in their homes to provide support or information.
- Interview clients to gather information about their backgrounds, needs, or progress.
- Help clients get needed services or resources.
- Teach life skills or strategies to clients or their families.
- Collaborate with other professionals to assess client needs or plan treatments.
- Transport clients to appointments.
- Assist clients in handling details of daily life.
- Explain regulations, policies, or procedures.
- Advise clients or community groups on health issues.
- Monitor nutrition related activities of individuals or groups.

Possible Places of Employment

- **Social Services**
  - Rainbow House (Columbia, MO/Youth Specialist)
  - Heartland Alliance (Chicago, IL/ Youth Worker I-II)
  - Mercy Home for Boys and Girls (Chicago, IL/Youth Care Worker)
Companies & Organizations to Consider

**Cerner**

Background:
- “Strategic innovation in healthcare”
- One of the largest employers in Kansas City, Missouri
- Ranked 13th most innovative company by Forbes
- Partners with technology, medical device, and professional service organizations
- Top employer of MU graduates with a Bachelor of Health Science in Health Sciences

**Population Health Clinical Terminologist**

Possible duties
- Acquiring and standardizing clinical data across the continuum of care to enable solutions that effectively manage populations
- Analyzing the data to correctly identify concepts within health care
- Travel 0-20% of the time

Qualifications
- Bachelor’s degree in Nursing, Health Care, Sciences, Information Technology or related field, equivalent relevant work experience
- At least 2 years of certified medical coding work experience or clinical work experience
- Must relocate to Kansas City area

**Academy Consultant**

Possible duties
- Communicate, collaborate, and work to design and customize clients’ new computer systems
- Communicate with clients about new systems, maintenance, and troubleshooting.
- Travel 0-20% of the time

Qualifications
- Meet one of the requirements:
  - 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA and Bachelor’s Degree
  - 2.8 or higher cumulative GPA, Bachelor’s Degree, and 1 or more years of experience
- Educational background in Business, Technology, or Healthcare
- Must relocate to Kansas City area

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Health Literacy Missouri

Background:
- Nonprofit organization in St. Louis
- Goal: “to help people make good health decisions every day”

Plain Language Writer

Possible Duties
- Translate complex health/medical information into an easy-to-understand message
- Present trainings to other professionals on communication

Qualifications
- Bachelor degree or demonstrated experience in a field related to communication, English, journalism, or public health
- Ability to communicate complex messages in a clear manner
- Basic understanding of U.S. healthcare system
- Use of Microsoft office

Communications and Marketing Assistant

Possible Duties
- Contribute to HLM’s online presence
- Writing content for their website, online resources, and email newsletter
- Monitor their media coverage

Qualifications
- Bachelor degree or demonstrated experience in journalism, communications, or a related field
- Basic understanding of the U.S. healthcare system
- Interest in social media and communication

Heartland Alliance

Background:
- Leading anti-poverty organization in the Midwest
- Located in Chicago, IL
- 4 Focus Sectors: Housing, Healthcare, Jobs and Justice
Community Health Worker

Possible duties
- Engage the individual in service delivery
- Assist individuals in understanding his or her service needs
- Promote understanding of the individual’s needs within the care delivery team
- Help the individual served integrate care recommendations into his or her daily life
- Advocate for the individual and help reduce barriers to change

Qualifications
- Demonstrated experience with and appreciation of the health and human service needs of vulnerable populations.
- Ability to work with vulnerable populations in a non-judgmental manner and has the ability to work as a member of a multi-disciplinary team.
- Proficiency in a specific language may be required.
- Must relocate to Chicagoland area

Project Associate- Heartland Housing

Possible duties
- Supports all facets of the development of affordable housing.
- Evaluates and helps secure zoning and other local government entitlements required for development.
- Provides logistical and administrative support to Real Estate Development Team, including managing the logistics of events such as design charrettes and community meetings.
- Assembles and produces responses to Requests for Proposals.

Qualifications
- Bachelor’s degree from four-year college or university
- Minimum of one year of professional experience, preferably in affordable housing development, urban planning, community development, or related field.
- Must relocate to Chicagoland area and be willing to periodically travel to areas outside of Milwaukee and Wisconsin that may require overnight stays.

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Howard Brown Health

Background:
- Exists to eliminate the disparities in healthcare experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people through research, education and the provision of services that promote health and wellness
- Multi-site operation based in Chicago that includes a main health and research center

Health Educator

Possible Duties
- Provide effective HIV/STI prevention interventions for sexual minority men of all sexual orientations through outreach activities
- Provide HIV and STI counseling and testing with walk-in clients at Howard Brown Health Center’s, including results and appropriate referral services
- Provide direct health education and information in social settings
- Document visits and interactions appropriately within HBHC’s Electronic Health Records System

Qualifications
- Minimum High School Diploma (Sometimes you have to take a job with qualifications lower than a Bachelor’s, but that makes you competitive and gets “your foot in the door”)
- At least 2 years’ experience with social service/public health field is required.
- Experience working in HIV/STI prevention or other community health programs required.
- Must possess strong communication and written skills, as well as a demonstrated ability to work effectively with diverse staff and populations.
- Must be at least 21 years old.
- Must possess valid driver’s license and clean driving record.
- Must consistently have access to personal motorized vehicle to commute to meetings and testing events throughout the City of Chicago and suburban Cook County.
- Must possess excellent internet and computer skills; experience working with Electronic Health Records Systems highly regarded.
- Preferred: Certification in phlebotomy experience
- Bilingual (Spanish/English) highly regarded
**KC Care Clinic**

**Background:**
- One of the largest community health clinics in the country
- Provides basic health care services to people who cannot afford them and to those challenged with access to care
- Located in Kansas City, Missouri

**Prevention Coordinator**

**Possible Duties**
- Coordinate day-to-day operations and delivery of HIV Prevention to include counseling and testing activities, outreach and syringe exchange
- Recruit, coordinate, and supervise volunteers and students who provide HIV testing services
- Assists in the supervision and coordination of various testing clinics and provides testing services as appropriate

**Qualifications**
- Bachelor's Degree in social work, psychology, health education or related field required.
- Six months experience in healthcare or related field preferred
- HIV/AIDS prevention experience with the target population preferred.
- Additional certifications and education in community health is preferred.
- Must have good interpersonal skills with ability to relate to people with diverse backgrounds and sexual orientation.

**Mercy Hospital**

**Background:**
- Named one of the top 5 large U.S. health systems in 2017 and 2016 by Truven
- Hospitals, outpatient and outreach clinics located in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas

**Health & Wellness Coordinator**

**Possible Duties**
- Overall management of the business unit in accordance with system initiatives
- Ensures department meets financial and operational goals set in collaboration with senior leadership

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- Research and update wellness programs and services as changes occur in the marketplace
- Assures the delivery of safe, quality, and cost efficient care by competent staff members.
- Participate in on-site health assessments and promotion classes over a wide variety of topics

**Qualifications**
- Bachelors of Science Degree in Health/Wellness related field.
- Minimum of three (3) years of combined education and work experience in related area.
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills are required.
- BLS CPR/AED certification.
- Allow for flexible hours including early mornings, on-site travel to out of town locations, and accommodating multiple shifts and locations for contracted companies.
- Drive Corporate Health vehicle on-site for testing and obtain Chauffeurs License within 4 weeks of start date.

**Planned Parenthood**

**Background:**
- Health care provider, educator, & advocate
- Reproductive care and sex education

**Clinical Assistant**

**Possible Duties**
- Representing Planned Parenthood as the first point of contact with many clients
- Insurance verification, take payments, lab duties, administrative tasks

**Qualifications**
- High school diploma
- Customer services experience
- Attention to deal, maintain confidentiality, computer skills
- Able to multitask and work in busy environment

**Health Center Manager**

**Possible Duties**
- Hire, coach, supervise, and evaluate other professionals
o Maintain knowledge of community issues, program operations, financial trends, and customer satisfaction to be a resource for managers
o Marketing planning, implementing, and maintenance
o Oversee projects and programs

**Qualifications**

o Communication, decision-making, problem solving, organization skills
o Ability to prioritize needs
o High level of motivation
o Willing to travel some
  
o **Preferred**: experienced manager, MBA or MPH degrees

**Educator and/or Outreach Coordinator**

**Possible Duties**

- Educate patients and explore alternative actions
- Provide information to minors and parents on all aspects of sexual activity
- Refer to other professionals, as necessary
- Training and orientation internally and externally
- Coordinate trainings and workshops

**Qualifications**

- Community outreach/public health knowledge or experiences
- Bachelor degree
- 1-3 years of experience

**State Emergency Management Agency**

**Background:**

- Mission to ensure safety measures when disasters threaten the state, response to disasters, and recovery after a disaster occurs

**Adult Protective and Community Worker**

**Possible Duties**

- Intake screening and processing of abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Investigate as necessary
- Assess the living arrangements for people who are eligible for Medicaid in-home services
- Recommend legal interventions as seen applicable to the situation
- Coordinates and monitors in-home Medicaid funded services
- Interacts with healthcare workers and travel as needed

**Qualifications**

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- Bachelor degree
- Basic knowledge of senior and disability services programs and community health problems
- Medical terminology and some math abilities
- Strong organizational skills

**Child Care Facility Specialist I**

**Possible Duties**
- Ongoing training to understand laws, rules, community member opinions, and public official views
- Assists in investigations of child care physical and planned activities along with the curriculum and staff credentials
- Prepares reports of child abuse and neglect investigations and makes recommendations
- Travels

**Qualifications**
- Bachelor degree with a minimum of 15 credits in: Elementary or Early Childhood Education, Sociology, Psychology, Child Development, Social Work, Nursing, or a closely related field.
- Basic knowledge of regulations and policies of child care facilities and an understanding of childhood behavior and development
Job Search Words:

Varying the words you use to describe a job will help expand your job search. A similar position at three different companies can be labeled differently (i.e. Manager, Coordinator, and Director). Below are a few different job search terms to consider.

- Administrator
- Advocate
- Assistant
- Consultant
- Coordinator
- Counselor
- Delivery
- Development
- Director
- Educator
- Entry-Level*
- Enrollment
- Executive
- Fitness
- Graduate
- Health Services
- Human Services
- Instructor
- Manager
- Operations
- Outreach
- Processor
- Professional
- Project
- Policy
- Research Assistant
- Representative
- Specialist
- Supervisor
- Technician

*Entry-Level is a great term to use in your job search when you are a new graduate

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Other Options to Consider

**Fellowships**
- Global Health Corps
- Peace Corps
- Public Health Associate Program with Centers for Disease Control
- AmeriCorps
- Health for America (Year-long program)

**Graduate School**

**Clinical**
- Nursing
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- Diagnostic Medical Ultrasound
- Speech Language Pathology
- Physician Assistant
- Athletic Training
- Anesthesiologist Assistant
- Medicine
- Pharmacy
- Dietetics
- Radiography
- Nuclear Medicine
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

**Non-Clinical**
- Health Administration
- Clinical Laboratory Science
- Health Professions Education
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Public Affairs
- Master of Health Informatics
- Master of Public Health
- Master of Health Management and Policy
- Higher Education (or Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis)

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Teach for America
- Be placed in a community in the U.S. which is in need teaching at-risk youth
- Pre-K – 12th grade
- Rural to urban, wherever the need lies
- 2 year commitment
- Receive education award, full-time salary and other benefits

City Year
- Be placed in a community in the U.S. which is in need
- Rural to urban, wherever the need lies
- 1 year commitment
- Provide tutoring and mentoring for at-risk youth, Pre-K – 12th grade
- Receive education award, stipend and other benefits

Assistant/Associate Programs
- Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA)
- Occupational Therapist Assistant (OTA)
- Board Certified Associate Behavioral Analyst (BCaBA)

Certifications
- Certified Personal Trainer
- Certified Coding Specialist
- Certified Emergency Response Specialist
- Certified Environmental Health Technician
- Certified Health Education Specialist
- CPR
- EMT Certification
- Fitness Specialist Certification
- Heath Educator Certification
- Diabetes Educator Certification
- Lactation Educator Certification
- Pharmaceutical Sales Certification
- Phlebotomist Certification
- Project Management Certification
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Medical Technologist/Assistant
- Laboratory Technologist

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