At the completion of the Vocational Nursing program at LSCS, the vocational nurse graduate will be able to:

1. Provide nursing care for patients in structured healthcare settings who are experiencing common, well-defined health problems with predictable outcomes. This care is based on utilization of the nursing process and a commitment to caring for culturally diverse patients across the life span and wellness-illness continuum.
   - Assist in determination of the health status and health needs of patients, based on interpretation of health related data, incorporating biological, psychological, social cultural, spiritual, overt learning needs, in collaboration with patients, their families, and other members of the healthcare team.
   - Assist in the formulation of goals and a plan of care for the patient to determine nursing priorities and to plan nursing care accordingly; in collaboration with the healthcare team to develop nursing care plans, preventative and long-term health goals/plans.
   - Implement plan of care within legal and ethical parameters in a non-discriminatory and non-judgmental manner in collaboration with the healthcare team.
   - Support the implementation of nursing care by applying a working knowledge of patient’s rights, protecting the rights and dignity of the patient, and respecting the rights of others to have their own value system.
   - Assist in the evaluation of the individual patient’s responses to nursing interventions and evaluation of established long/short term patient goals.
   - Use the problem-solving approach as the basis for decision making in practice, based on application of scientific principles, clinical data, and acceptance of accountability of care.
   - Provide direct basic care to assigned, multiple patients in structured settings.

2. Utilize effective communication techniques with patients, families, and healthcare team members.
   - Communicate significant findings to the health team; reporting and recording objective and subjective (as related by patient) results of nursing actions.
   - Recognize and communicate ethical and legal concerns through established channels of communication.

3. Contribute to the development and implementation of teaching plan for patient with common healthcare problems.

4. Assist in the coordination of human and material resources for the provision of care to assigned patients.

5. Participate in discussion relating to the evaluation of patient care with health team.
   - Aid in identifying others whom can assist in patient care.
   - Participate in the identification of patient needs for referral to appropriate sources of assistance; communicate these needs to family and appropriate members of the health team.
   - Participate in activities that support the organizational framework of structured healthcare settings.
   - Implement established cost containment measures in direct patient care.

*VN-patient=individual  ADN-patient=individual & family (RE: DELC, Texas BON, Sept. 2002)