

## ZAC ANTONIO ROMERO

### PROFILE

#### Personal Information

<b>Name</b>	<b>Zac Antonio Romero</b>
<b>Sex, Birthdate</b>	Male, 07/16/2006
<b>Address</b>	Newport Beach, CA

#### Language

<b>Spanish</b>	First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at home
<b>English</b>	First Language, Speak, Read, Write, Spoken at home

### FAMILY

#### Household

<b>Parents</b>	Divorced (August, 2014)
<b>Home</b>	Parent 1

#### Parent 1

<b>Name</b>	Mother – Reyna B. Romero, address: same as my home address
<b>Birthplace</b>	Los Angeles, CA
<b>Occupation</b>	Software Developer
<b>Education</b>	California Institute of Technology, BA, MS

#### Parent 2

<b>Name</b>	Father – Brian H. Romero, Address: Upland, CA
<b>Birthplace</b>	Montebello, CA
<b>Occupation</b>	Fuel Sales Representative
<b>Education</b>	Some College, no degree

#### Siblings

<b>Name(s)</b>	Zina Angelina Romero, 17 years old
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## ZAC ANTONIO ROMERO

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### EDUCATION

**School** Galileo Academy (Grades 9-12)  
Irvine, CA

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#### Senior Year Courses

**Galileo Academy**

Senior English – Full Year

Honors Physics – Full Year

AP Calculus BC – Full Year

AP Biology – Full Year

Government/Economics – Full Year

#### Honors and Awards

Varsity Lacrosse – Captain (anticipated 12th grade), League MVP (11th grade)

BioGENEius Global Sustainability Challenge, Biotechnology Institute – Honorable Mention  
Junior Year.

I genetically modified a plant for drought and insect resistance

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#### Future Plans

**Prospective Major(s)** Bio-Medical Engineering

**Career Interests** Food Engineer

**Highest Degree Intended** Ph.D.

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## ZAC ANTONIO ROMERO

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### ACTIVITIES

#### Home Activity

9, 10, 11, 12  
168 hw 52 wy

Big Brother to my twin sister Zina.  
I have had to help care for her and be her tutor for school

#### School Activity

9, 10, 11, 12  
15 hw 30 wy

Varsity Lacrosse (9-12)  
MVP Junior Year and Captain most likely senior year

#### Internship

11, 12 - Summer  
20 hw 8 wy

Zymo Research, Irvine  
Intern, Bio Lab Department  
Various projects while in a full 5 PPE suit

# ZAC ANTONIO ROMERO

## TRANSCRIPT

Galileo Academy  
1687 Newton Drive  
Newport Coast, CA 92657

### Transcript for Zac Antonio Romero

Grade 9 (2020-2021)	Fall	Spring	Grade 10 (2021-2022)	Fall	Spring
Freshman English	B-	C+	Sophomore English	C+	B-
Honors Spanish 2 (*)	A-	A-	Geometry/Trigonometry	A-	A-
Algebra 1	A-	A-	Honors Chemistry (*)	A-	A-
Biology	B	B	Honors Spanish 3 (*)	A-	A-
Global Perspectives	B-	C	European History	C+	C+
			SS HON Algebra 2 (*)	A	A
<b>9th Grade GPA - Weighted</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>10th Grade GPA - Weighted</b>	<b>3.83</b>	<b>4.00</b>
<b>9th Grade GPA - Unweighted</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>10th Grade GPA - Unweighted</b>	<b>3.33</b>	<b>3.50</b>
Grade 11 (2022-2023)	Fall	Spring	Grade 12 (2023-2024)	Fall	Spring
Junior English	C+	B	Senior English		
US History	C+	B-	Honors Physics		
AP Environmental Science (*)	A-	A	AP Calculus BC (*)		
AP Spanish Lang/Culture (*)	B-	B	AP Biology (*)		
AP Calculus AB (*)	A-	A	Government/Economics		
<b>11th Grade GPA - Weighted</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>12th Grade GPA - Weighted</b>		
<b>11th Grade GPA - Unweighted</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>12th Grade GPA - Unweighted</b>		
<b>Cumulative GPA - Weighted (*) 3.78</b>					
<b>Cumulative GPA - Unweighted 3.38</b>					

This transcript is unofficial unless embossed with the school seal. All letter grades on this transcript, except Physical Education, are used in the calculation of the unweighted GPA. The weighted GPA is calculated by adding one point for AP and Honors courses which are marked with an asterisk (\*). Also, a "+" or a "-" does not affect the GPA.

**Fall 2023 grades will be available February 1, 2024.**

## ZAC ANTONIO ROMERO

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### WRITING

#### Personal Essay

**Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.**

“slap slap slap” From my earliest memories, the “slap slap slap” sound sparked my interest in food science.

As a kid, my family would all pile into my dad’s Dodge Grand Caravan and drive to spend long weekends at my abuelita’s (grandmother) home in Earlimart, California (located in California’s Central Valley). After what seemed like a thousand hours getting there – not to mention my mother singing “Hollaback Girl” completely out of tune, we arrived. After rushing in to go to the bathroom – my dad did not believe in stopping for gas or a bathroom break, I would immediately go into the kitchen to see what my abuelita was cooking. There would always be something amazing simmering on the stove. And whatever it was, she always had Abuelita’s Secret Sauce. Words don’t do it justice so I won’t even try to describe it. Full, the kids settled around the table to play SlapJack – my twin sister would call it the “Slap Slap game”. But that isn’t what sparked my interest in food science.

Early the following morning – usually around 5:00 AM, I would hear “slap, slap, slap”. My grandpa was a farm laborer and had to leave to go pick whatever crop was in season. (Funny how I would speak to my abuelita in Spanish but my grandpa in English.) But, before he would leave, my abuelita would make homemade tortillas to make into burritos for him to take for his lunch. First you make the masa (dough). Then you pull off a small ball of dough and roll it with a rolling pin. My abuelita would use a dowel she got from the hardware store, a regular rolling pin did not have the right “touch”. The final step was to slap it between the palms of your hands. “slap slap slap”. I would hear these sounds every morning. I was the only one in my family who would sit on a stool in the kitchen as she made dozens of tortillas. While she was making the tortillas, we would talk about everything – usually about food. Why do you use lard instead of Crisco? – “Because it doesn’t taste right if you don’t.” What does the baking soda do in the recipe? – “The tortillas will not rise without it.” Why do avocados turn brown after you open them up? – “Go ask your mother”. So, I did. She told me to figure it out for myself and come back when I had the answer.

From that day on, I have always been fascinated with food – not just eating it, but the chemical reactions that take place when you cook it, how the method of cooking food changes its taste, the various methods of preserving food, and so on. One discovery lead to another which lead down a different path which lead to yet another discovery. Through this process of smoke alarms going off in my kitchen, to really upset stomachs (only make sushi with raw fish if you really know what you are doing), to spectacular flaming deserts, I was a foodie – and not just any foodie – a food alchemist. This interest in food affected my own personal eating habits. I am a pescatarian – but only wild caught. After watching a Discovery Channel program about “Do You Know What Eating Meat Does to Our Planet?” I made a life choice. And I hope that my academic curiosity will be heightened in college with access to world-class faculty and facilities. And in the end, I hope to solve many of the world’s hunger-related problems with ... science.

And in case you are wondering, my abuelita shared with me the secret ingredient in her secret sauce. And no, it is not something goofy like “love” or “respect”. The secret ingredient is ... gotcha.

## ZAC ANTONIO ROMERO

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**“Community disruptions such as COVID 19 and natural disasters can have deep and long-lasting impacts. If you need it, this space is yours to describe those impacts. Colleges care about the effects on your health and well-being, safety, family circumstances, future plans, and education, including access to reliable technology and quiet study spaces.” *Limit 250 Words***

COVID-19 has affected me in three specific ways.

- 1) The 2021 Varsity Lacrosse Season was canceled due to COVID-19.
- 2) During our freshman year, my twin sister’s school canceled in-person instruction. She stayed home with inconsistent virtual and in-home instruction and I assumed many of these responsibilities. Zina has Down Syndrome and I am her teacher, caregiver, personal chef, companion, protector, dance partner, but most importantly I her older brother by 18 minutes and 12 seconds. My relationship with her is special and I love having her in my life but freshman year was stressful helping her and completing my own school work at the same time. This negatively affected my grades. She thought that since I was home, it was “after-school” play time.
- 3) Elderly family members moved in with us due to the uncertainty of the safety protocols at their residences. I gave up my room and shared a room with my sister. This too disrupted my normal study routine and affected my grades.

None of these reasons are excuses for my poor academic performance but I got behind in some classes and it's been hard to catch up. I never wanted my extended family to be put at risk or have my sister not get the instruction she deserved. Freshman year, I ended up “trying” to do my homework at 2 AM which made for very long days and difficulty zooming in for class and being prepared for sophomore and junior year.

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### LAKE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY – GENERAL SUPPLEMENT

#### GENERAL

<b>Preferred start term</b>	Fall, 2024
<b>Admission Plan</b>	Regular Decision

#### ACADEMICS

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Choice Major</b>	Bio-medical Engineering
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Choice Major</b>	Environmental Studies

#### CONTACTS

<b>Contact 1</b>	Virtual Interview with Associate Dean of Admission
<b>Contact 2</b>	College Fair at Anaheim Convention Center

#### FAMILY

<b>Sibling Applied</b>	No	<b>Relative(s) Attended</b>	No
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### LAKE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY – WRITING SUPPLEMENT

#### Why are you a fit for Lake Washington University?

I had two requirements as I created my college list – an exceptional Biomedical Engineering major and an atmosphere where faculty focus on teaching and mentoring students – not just doing research. I believe LWU has both.

My goal is to major in Bio-medical Engineering. I hope to one day be a Food Engineer and by that I don't mean a cook. Food Engineers design and develop systems for the production, processing, distribution, and storing of food. My goal is to push the boundaries of the field to help solve world hunger by decrease the amount of food that is spoiled by improper production techniques. I am most excited to work in the Goddard Lab – Biomaterials and Biointerfaces in Food and Agriculture. Improved food viability and sustainability as a result of improved bio-degradable and eco-friendly packaging is a strong interest of mine. Check One.

My conversation with Dean Starnes was especially insightful as he shared with me his own experiences as a student and his many interactions with his faculty. Check Two.

There is actually a third requirement. I love the sport of Lacrosse and hope to make the team as a walk-on. If that does not happen – because the LWU Wolves are so good – then I would certainly enjoy playing on the club team.

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## Secondary School Report (SSR) – Part 1

**School** Galileo Academy, Irvine, CA

Guided by educators and industry, Galileo Academy is an independent charter school that features performance-based learning assessment, internships, and group learning. Total enrollment is 2,351 students with 544 seniors. Approximately 98% of the graduating seniors attend a four-year college and 2% attend a two-year college.

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### School AP Policy

Curriculum offered: Advanced Placement classes are offered in English, mathematics, Spanish, Computer Science, US History, and Laboratory Science. Students are encouraged to take dual-enrollment college-level coursework if they have exhausted the AP offerings in a particular subject.

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### Counselor Details

**Name, e-mail, phone** Nora Lumme, n.lumme@galileo.academy.org, (949) 555-1963

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### Written Evaluation

**Relationship to applicant** College Counselor/Academic Advisor for four years  
**Descriptors** Brilliant, compassionate, empathetic, honest, quiet  
**Any school discipline or Criminal history** No

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### Rank, GPA, and strength of curriculum for Zac Antonio Romero

**Rank:** we do not Rank  
**GPA**

Unweighted: 3.38  
Weighted: 3.81

**Curriculum Rigor:**

- Most Demanding  
 Very Demanding  
 Demanding  
 Average
- 

### Please rate the applicant – Zac Antonio Romero – in the following areas:

	No Basis	Below Average	Average	Good (above average)	Very Good (well above average)	Excellent (top 10%)	Outstanding (top 5%)	Top Few (top 1%)
Academic Achievement							X	
Extracurricular Accomplishments						X		
Personal qualities and character								X
<b>OVERALL</b>							X	



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## ZAC ANTONIO ROMERO

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### TEACHER - Letter of Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION FOR: **ZAC ANTONIO ROMERO**

I am writing to express my strongest support for the candidacy of Zac Romero. He is one of the most talented students I have ever had the privilege of teaching and I urge you to favorably review his application.

Zac is a gracious and unassuming young man. The breadth of his character, coupled with his heart-felt sense of humanity, distinguishes Zac amongst all of the students I have worked with during three decades as an educator.

Zac is a young man of incredible intellect. He has an innate curiosity and zeal for learning. I taught Zac Biology, Honors Chemistry, and he is currently enrolled in my AP Biology class – arguably the toughest class we offer. His intuitive understanding of science is impressive. Other than in his freshman year, he has never incorrectly answered a single problem on any exam I have given. I always count on him to help tutor others in the class who were having difficulty understanding the challenging material. His devotion to not just learning the material but thoroughly comprehending the material is noteworthy. Zac was and continues to be a pleasure to teach and an enormous asset to my class. He is clearly a young man of exceptionally high aptitude and is willing to work hard to study beyond the standard course material and to make lasting contributions in the classroom.

Finally, I was his advisor for the research that he presented as part of the BioGENEius Global Sustainability Challenge sponsored by the Biotechnology Institute. It is truly unbelievable the high level of innate ability and intuitive understanding of biotechnology this young man has. His work was recognized with the Honorable Mention Award his junior year.

I give Zac Romero my highest possible recommendation. His talents in biotechnology are exceptional and his dedication is without parallel. He is also a genuinely nice guy. I firmly believe he will be a successful adult. He has a sense of compassion that I have not seen in others his age or, lately, many adults. I am quite certain that if accepted to your institution, he will make a positive and lasting contribution.

Respectfully,

Dr. Caryn E. Johnson

Chair, Math and Science Department, Galileo Academy