

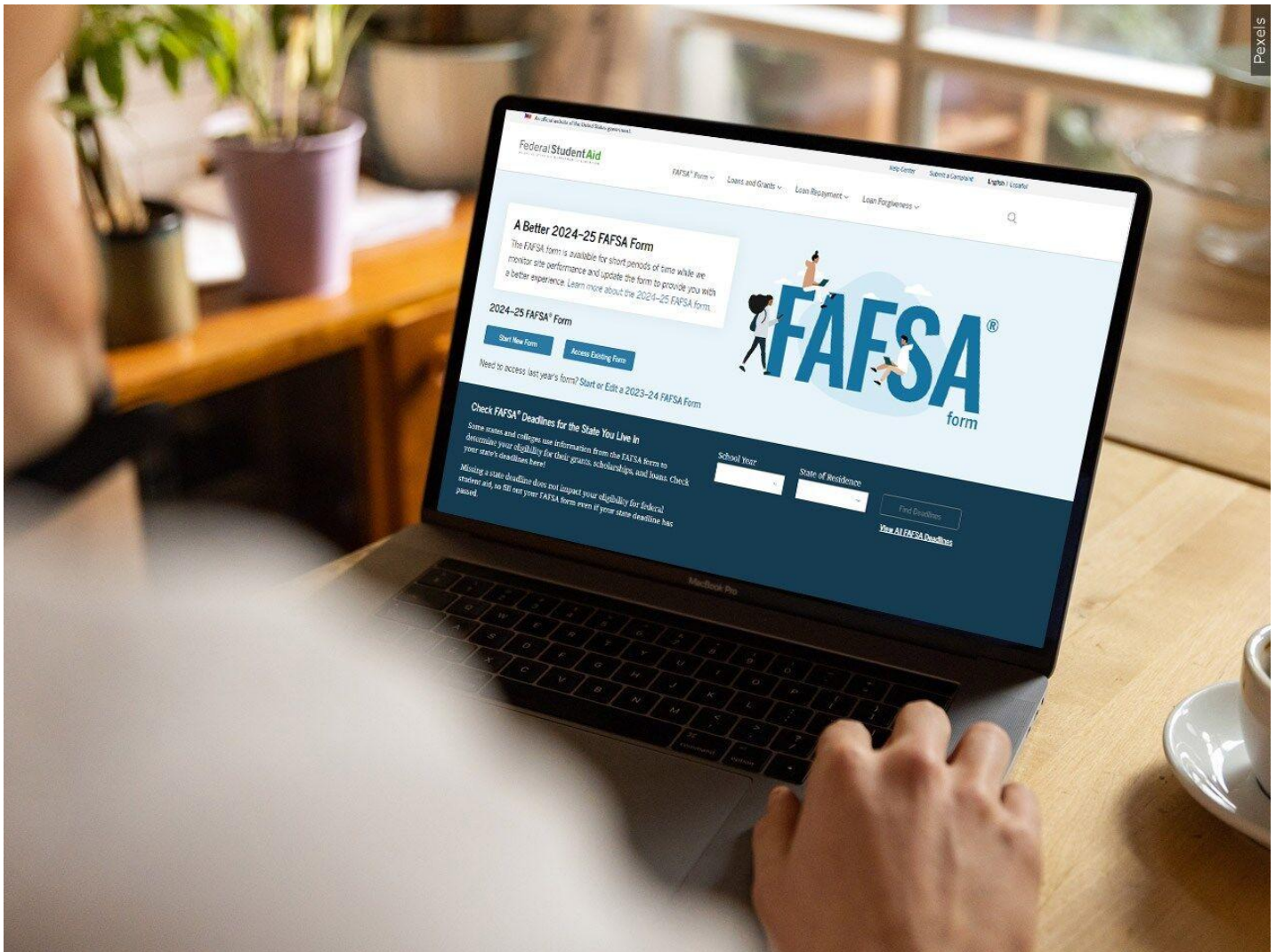
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Students prepare for financial aid application changes

By: Rocky Walker
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Pexels

MEDFORD, Ore. -- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA form, is a yearly process college students for generations have had to do -- recent changes to the process is leaving some feeling nervous.

"I do feel kind of nervous but I just hope it goes well," said Rogue Community College freshman Shaulondra Pettit.

The most notable change within this year is that the application opens on Dec. 1, compared to the Oct. 1 start time that has become a staple. This is an improvement from last year's Jan. 1 start time, but there are still some main overhauls that carry over.

Changes include:

- Shifting from the Estimated Financial Contribution (EFC) that previously decided the amount of money you were eligible for, to the Student Aid Index (SAI).
- Decreasing the amount of questions from more than 100 to less than 50.
- Requirement for tax information to be handled directly between the IRS and the Department of Education.

"It still could be bumpy, although maybe not as bumpy as last year," said Jack Wallace, the director of governmental affairs at YREFY, an educational consultant company. "So you just have to be patient, but you have to be what I call an educated consumer when it comes to higher education."

Federal Student Aid said the department is working towards the goal of launching future FAFSA forms on Oct. 1.

Many students say that even though the newer FAFSA applications are different than what they're used to, the stress of filling them out is not new.

"I mean it's always a stressful process," Said sophomore college student Sarah Glauser, "It just feels so official, and this is not that long into me 'adulging'."

To learn more about the application you can follow the links below:

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