The preferred format to produce CAD files for photomask fabrication is GDSii. The software "KLayout" works well and is open source. See

https://www.klayout.de/build.html

Layout Editor may also be used. It is very intuitive and easy to learn.

https://layouteditor.org/

A full copy of Layout Editor is provided at the NRF on the left computer in the NW corner of the 1st floor. Staff is available for help is needed.

The use of Solidworks, Autodesk Autocad or any other 3D CAD software is discouraged. They do not work well for the 2D designs needed for photomasks. If you are already acquainted with one of these software types and prefer to use it.....see section 5.0 Heidelberg SOP

https://rsc.aux.eng.ufl.edu/_files/documents/148.pdf

Note: the most common problem with Autocad files is that users do not close polylines.

To close line segments in AutoCAD and create a polygon, while drawing a polyline, simply press the "C" key on your keyboard at the final point to activate the "Close" option, which automatically connects the last point to the starting point, forming a closed polygon.

When your file is complete, submit the file to Bill Lewis at walewis@ufl.edu for review.

If you submit a .dxf file....

Bill will convert the file (if autocad dxf file is submitted) and attempt to fix any issues with "Linkcad 7" conversion software and email the file back to you in GDSii format. To view the file for correctness, download the free GDSii software Klayout mentioned above.